

BlogBooker

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1. 2007

1.1 January

Welcome to the Obama Blog (2007-01-24 09:03)

I set up this blog to discuss and promote the campaign of Barack Obama for the United States presidency. Although still a longshot in the primary, Obama is the leading challenger to Hilary Clinton. His big challenge now is to catch up on fundraising. Hilary has some \$14 million in the bank already. Obama would do good to concentrate on winning the first one or two primaries. Fortunately he appears to be leading in New Hampshire so far. Once he shows he can win, things will start falling his way. I chose Obama over Clinton, although either one would be great as they both represent firsts for minorities in the U.S. However, as opponent of the Iraq War, Obama's consistent opposition is more in line with my views. Also Hilary is a bit too "centrist" for me and I like Obama's emphasis on the environment. Please feel free to leave your comments and suggestions on this blog.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



alyceclover (2007-07-10 22:24:00)

Hello and thank you for choosing to support the Senator. I disagree about Hillary being as good a choice as Barack. With her she brings Bill as First Man in the White House. He not only betrayed her trust and Chelsey's but the people who elected him as well.

People talk about experience, I think maturity is a better word. Hillary lacks empathy in her support of genocide on the Iraqi people. Whereas Obama wishes to seek peaceful solutions to problems that ail us.

Obama rolls online (2007-01-24 11:20)

Research from a few sites indicate that Barack Obama is leading the pack in online popularity. Twelve percent of visitors to the Senate website click on Obama's webpage as compared to 7 percent for Clinton and 2 percent for John McCain. Obama's campaign site is ranked 86,653 according to Alexa.com, which is ahead of Clinton's at 291,730 and McCain's at 321,363. He also outrated Clinton, Edwards and McCain according to popularity in blogs judged by the amount of times his name was mentioned in blogs tracked by technorati and blogpulse. Online popularity generally translates to support among young people and techies . Howard Dean and moveon.org have used the internet to raise large sums of money. Obama can do the same. What he needs to balance this is some experienced savvy old hands who know how things work at this level.

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Fundraising campaign gears up (2007-01-25 10:01)

The Obama camp says it will take at least \$50 million just to have a 'seat at the table' in next year's primary. Other pundits claim \$100 million is needed to be competitive.

If one has a good energized grassroots organization with volunteers willing to work the phones, walk door-to-door, hand out flyers at rallies, supermarkets, etc., stuff envelopes and the like, Obama's estimate is probably more accurate. Obama has many big names, particularly from Hollywood, that have committed to help raise money for him including George Soros, Oprah Winfrey, Warren Buffett, Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg, David Geffen, George Clooney and Matt Damon.

Soros can only contribute \$2,100 personally and he has already done that, but his political action committee known as Hopefund can do much more. He can also raise money directly from his wealthy friends and associates.

Supporters with shallower pockets will probably contribute mainly through the Internet website, which has already established itself as the best way to make millions quickly through lots of small donations.

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Intriguing past continues to make headlines (2007-01-28 10:33)

An article at The Times website examines the 'colorful' family of Obama and his diverse cultural heritage.

Raised in Hawai'i and Indonesia, Obama has Kenyan and Indonesian half-siblings. According to a U.S. News & World Report article one of his exploratory committee aides said that the candidate hopes to woo new faces into the Iowa caucus.

"The question for us will be whether we can get those people who are outside the voter file," said the aide. The Obama camp has said that attracting new voters not found in current databases into the "movement" is a key component of their campaign strategy.

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Barack Obama as a Harvard law school student in Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 6, 1990. Obama was selected to serve on the Law Review as one of 80 'editor'-students; midway through his second year, on Feb. 5, 1990, Obama was elected president, becoming the first black president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review. AP Photo/Harvard University, Joe Wrinn via Yahoo News.

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Obama's support among youth, polls (2007-01-29 09:36)

An opinion piece in The Daily Campus a student publication of the University of Connecticut illustrates Barack Obama's appeal among youth.

Such popularity, again, will translate into lots of energy that will need to be focused by people with experience. Without the benefit of experience, all that enthusiasm has a tendency of getting scattered and wasted.

The candidate was in the media spotlight again today when a protester interrupted hearings on the Katrina/Rita reconstruction efforts in Louisiana. Obama is among a group of senators attending that hearing. From now until the

end of the primaries, each candidate will struggle to get the most advantage of free media coverage.

Polls

One shouldn't worry about current poll numbers. The people are just starting to learn about the candidates, and many of the latter are just starting to get their campaign machines and fundraising up and running.

Polls are much more important in the last few months and weeks before the primaries begin. And those first few primaries are crucial. They determine who has the momentum on their side, and momentum is key to winning elections.

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From left to right, David Geffen, Jeffrey Katzenberg, and Steven Spielberg on New York Stock Exchange floor in a 2004 photo. Invitations went out this week to meet Sen. Barack Obama next month reportedly on Feb. 20 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel for a fund-raising reception hosted by the three. Peter Morgan/Reuters photo via Yahoo News.

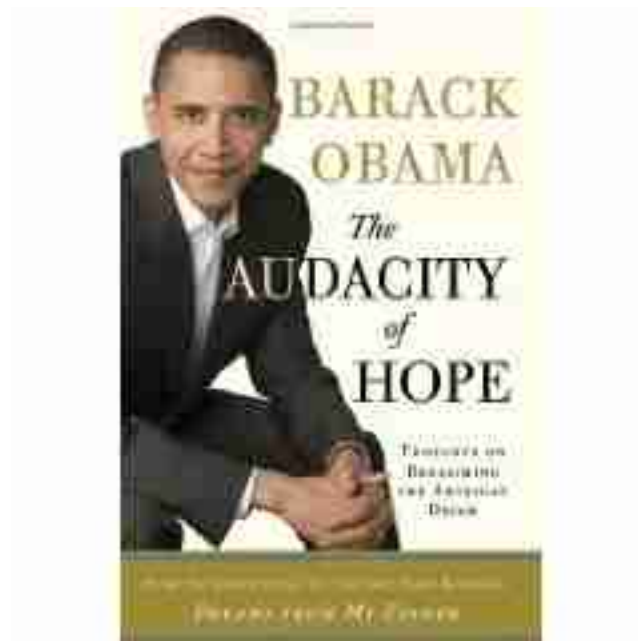
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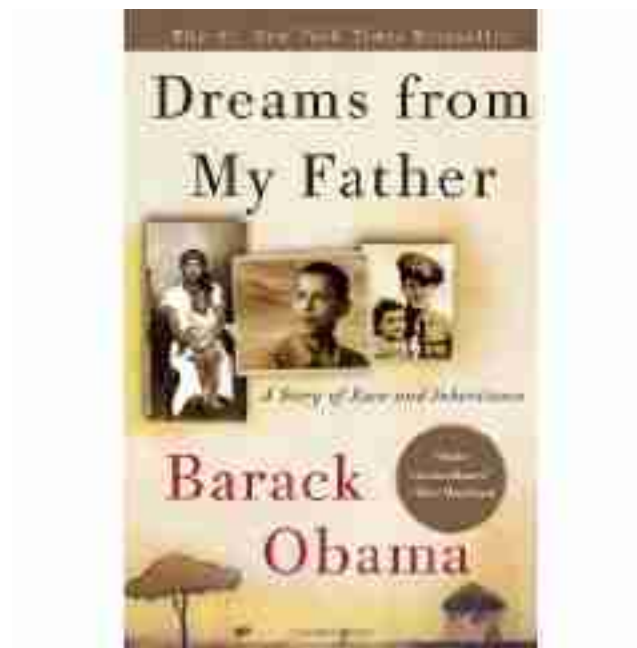
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Obama's books fuel campaign (2007-01-30 12:51)

A USA Today article by Carol Memmot asks whether Barack Obama's hot book sales helped him in deciding to run (or at least form an exploratory committee).

Obama's second book *The Audacity of Hope* and his first book *Dreams of my Father* have not only enjoyed healthy sales but have drawn rock star-like crowds to book signings. It would come as no surprise that many of his fans took the opportunity of encouraging Obama to run during personal encounters at the signing events.





Barack Obama's books *The Audacity of Hope* and *Dreams of my Father* are ranked 7th and 32nd respectively in amazon.com sales.

On the fundraising front, according to various press reports, the Obama camp is starting to pull in lots of financial support, and experts like Jan Baran and Robert Bauer don't see the senator having any problem raising the cash needed to get his message out.

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Obama introduces Iraq War De-escalation Act of 2007 (2007-01-30 18:04)

Appended is a copy of the most recent message from the official Barack Obama Presidential Exploratory Committee mailing list:

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Dear Paul,

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Today, we sadly find ourselves at the very point in

Iraq I feared most when I opposed giving the President the open-ended authority to wage this war in 2002 – an occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences in the midst of a country torn by civil war.

We have waited and we have been patient. We have given chance after chance for a resolution that has not come, and, more importantly, watched with horror and grief the tragic loss of thousands of brave young Americans.

The time for waiting in Iraq is over. The days of our open-ended commitment must come to a close. And the need to bring this war to an end is here.

That is why today, I'm introducing the Iraq War De-escalation Act of 2007. This plan would not only place a cap on the number of troops in Iraq and stop the escalation, it would begin a phased redeployment of U.S. forces with the goal of removing of all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by March 31st, 2008 – consistent with the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group that the President ignored.

The redeployment of troops to the United States , Afghanistan , and elsewhere in the region would begin no later than May 1st of this year, toward the end of the timeframe I first proposed in a speech more than two months ago. In a civil war where no military solution exists, this redeployment remains our best leverage to pressure the Iraqi government to achieve the political settlement between its warring factions that can slow the bloodshed and promote stability.

The U.S. military has performed valiantly and brilliantly in Iraq . Our troops have done all we have asked them to do and more. But no amount of American soldiers can solve the political differences at the heart of somebody else's civil war, nor settle the grievances in the hearts of the combatants.

When it comes to the war in Iraq , the time for promises and assurances, for waiting and patience, is over. Too many lives have been lost and too many billions have been spent for us to trust the President on another tried and failed policy opposed by generals and experts, Democrats and Republicans, Americans and even the Iraqis themselves.

It is time to change our policy.

It is time to give Iraqis their country back.

And it is time to refocus America 's efforts on the challenges we face at home and the wider struggle against terror yet to be won.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Barack Obama

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama rebuffs Biden comment, selects site for announcement (2007-01-31 19:57)

The presidential hopeful today reacted to a comment by Senator Joseph Biden seeming to suggest that Barack Obama is the first "articulate" and "bright and clean" black presidential candidate. Biden made the remarks on the same day he announced he was also running for the democratic presidential nomination.

"I didn't take Sen. Biden's comments personally, but obviously they were historically inaccurate," Obama said. "African-American presidential candidates like Jesse Jackson, Shirley Chisholm, Carol Moseley Braun and Al Sharpton gave a voice to many important issues through their campaigns, and no one would call them inarticulate."

On another front, possibly in reaction to Obama's introduction of a planned phased redeployment of troops from Iraq by 2008, President Bush said that the senator still had a long way to go before reaching the White House.

Obama also announced today that he would declare his decision on whether to run or not at the Old Capitol used by Abraham Lincoln, a symbolic gesture as Lincoln like Obama was a bit of a novice when he won the presidency.



Senator Barack Obama, D-Ill., center, tastes some food from New Orleans brought to his Capitol Hill office in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007, by Sen. David Vitter, R-La., left, and Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., as a payoff for the Super Bowl bound Chicago Bears beating the New Orleans Saints in the NFC playoff game. AP Photo/Susan Walsh via Yahoo News.

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1.2 February

Iraq plan attracts party left, (2007-02-01 15:05)

The left-wing of the Democratic Party is delighted at Barack Obama 's new plan to get out of the Iraq War as opinions from publications like the Daily Kos indicate.

He clearly is positioning himself in opposition to Clinton on this issue.

Chicago billionaire Penny Pritzker will be Obama's national finance chairman according to Chicago news sources. The Pritzker clan started the Hyatt hotel chain and is one of America's wealthiest families. The first big fundraiser will be on Feb. 11 in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The candidate hopeful has instituted a righteous self-imposed ban on accepting money from federal lobbyists, political action committees, registered foreign agents and youths under the age of 16.

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Senator Barack Obama speaks before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for a hearing on 'Senators' Perspectives on Global Warming' on Capitol Hill in Washington January 30, 2007. REUTERS/Molly Riley photo via Yahoo News.

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'O'bama' energizes crowd at GMU (2007-02-02 17:24)

In an obvious attempt to fight for media coverage, Hillary Rodham Clinton said she will make her first campaign stop in New Hampshire on the day (Feb. 10) Barack Obama is scheduled to announce he will run for president.

Obama was at George Mason University today speaking before hundreds of fired-up students chanting "Yes, we can!"

The candidate recounted his humble past including working as a \$13,000 year community organizer in Chicago.

There has been some talk as to whether a candidate from the Midwest can win the presidency. In the last presidential election, Ohio and Michigan figured as key swing states. When the Democrats swept into Congress last year, Ohio went solidly against the Republicans. It probably will be a key state in 2008. Nevada may also turn out to be a very important state to win to clinch the presidency.

Elsewhere, to counteract the wordplay of Obama-Osama used by conservatives, t-shirt makers on amazon.com have come up with a "Barack O'bama" shirt giving the candidate's name a Celtic touch.

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Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., smiles at a George Mason University rally at in Fairfax, Va., Friday, Feb. 2007. AP Photo/Susan Walsh via Yahoo News.

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U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill, left, joins United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, for a photo opportunity on a flight from Washington DC to New York, Friday, Feb. 2, 2007. AP Photo/United Nations, Evan Schneider via Yahoo News.

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Smoke signals (2007-02-03 10:55)

An article in the Globe and Mail wonders what impact Barack Obama's smoking habit will have on his presidential hopes.

There are other prominent tobacco-smoking elected officials, like California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger who I've personally seen light up a cigar in a smoking tent he maintains outside of his official office.

However FDR was the last president known to smoke cigarettes while in office. Many presidents including Bill Clinton were known to light up cigars on occasion. Gerald Ford was a regular pipe smoker. Eisenhower and Johnson were both heavy smokers but quit before assuming office.

A sign of cultural bias perhaps is that drinking is more accepted than smoking. No one would raise an eyebrow if a president were to accept a drink at a social event, for example. It is arguable that alcohol poses a much greater risk to good decision-making than tobacco.



Obama and wife Michelle with their daughters Sasha (L) and Malia (R) in Chicago in 2004. AFP photo via Yahoo News. Many believe that Michelle will be an important factor in Obama's race.

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Obama's secret weapon (2007-02-04 10:38)

Check out this article from the Telegraph in the United Kingdom on Michelle Obama:

Obama prepares to unveil secret weapon

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/03/wobama03.xml>

Many people know that Hillary will be counting on Bill for support, but they don't know much about Obama's wife Michelle, who happens to pull in a substantially larger salary than the senator himself.

A graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law School and a corporate vice president, she is probably the candidate hopeful's best bet in securing support from the African American community.

As she will be one of the most accomplished first ladies in history if her husband is elected, she might also cut through some of Hillary Clinton's command of the women's vote. During her career she has served as a former associate dean at the University of Chicago, and is currently a vice president at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

Michelle Obama sits on six boards, including the prestigious Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and Tree House Foods.

A devoted mother of two daughters, Michelle stands 5-foot-11 and has star appeal all on her own.



Senator Barack Obama and his wife Michelle greet Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes at the Legends Ball, an award ceremony hosted by Oprah Winfrey honoring women in the arts, entertainment and civil rights, in Santa Barbara, Calif. on May 14, 2005. AP Photo/Michael A. Marant, File via Yahoo News.

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Obama to run unconventional campaign (2007-02-05 15:40)

According to the Obama camp political consultants, the candidate hopeful cannot win by running an orthodox "top-down" campaign. His opponents have too much of a headstart on him for that approach.

Instead, Obama will have to utilize the movement and energy built around his rock-star appeal and go with that flow. One example of an unconventional technique is the recent web-organized rally at George Mason University organized through the Facebook site. In the end, viral messaging may end up doing more for Obama than television or campaign mailings.

However, Obama is expected to do well in fundraising despite not having the deep supporter database of some other candidates like Clinton and McCain. Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson said that he expects Obama to raise about \$25 million in the first quarter. Just today, entertainer Barbara Streisand said that the Illinois senator would be one of three candidates she is supporting and donating to, the others being Clinton and Edwards.

Here's a nice 'insider' article on Barack by Adam Hanft of the Huffington Post:

Brunch with Barack

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adam-hanft/brunch-with-barack_b_40478.html



This combination of file photos shows from left, singer/actress Barbara Streisand, former Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Hilary Clinton, D-NY, and Sen. Barak Obama, D-Ill. Streisand, said in a statement released Monday, Feb. 5, 2007, she's giving money not only to Clinton but to Edwards of North Carolina and Obama of Illinois. AP Photo/File via Yahoo News.

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Obama's colorful upbringing (2007-02-06 22:33)

The Associated Press released a nice article on Barack Obama's multiethnic upbringing in Honolulu.

Growing up in a melting pot and making it to the prestigious Punahou School seems to have moulded Obama into the bridge-builder that he is today.



AP

This 1976 photo provided by The Oahuan, the yearbook of Punahou School, shows Barack Obama, in front row, fourth from right, poses with his 9th grade class outside of Punahou School in Honolulu. Punahou is a prestigious private school in Honolulu, that attracts the island's wealthiest, and most accomplished students. From msnbc.com.

Obama will make stops in Iowa, Chicago and New Hampshire over the next three days before his candidacy announcement at Springfield's Old State Capitol.

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Obama foregoes public funding (2007-02-07 15:14)

Today, an anonymous source close to the Obama camp announced that the candidate hopeful will join Hillary Clinton and John Edwards in turning down public funding for both his primary campaign, and if nominated for the general election. This appears to be a sign of confidence from the campaign's fundraising team.

In the last presidential election, both Bush and Kerry declined public funding for the primary but accepted \$74.5 million each for the general election.

There are also reports that Obama will try to quit smoking before the formal announcement of his campaign urged on by his wife Michelle.

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Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) (C) speaks at a news conference in the Capitol in Washington on a plan for U.S. troop de-escalation in Iraq February 6, 2007. Flanking Obama are Representatives Mike Thompson, (D-CA) (L) and Patrick Murphy (D-PA). REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque (UNITED STATES) via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Excitement building for Saturday event (2007-02-08 18:46)

Excitement is building in Springfield, Illinois where

Saturday Senator Barack Obama will officially announce he is running president . The candidate hopeful reportedly spent last weekend courting potential investors from the high tech industry, Broadway and Wall Street in New York City. He already has

Alan Solomont, a top Democratic fundraiser from Boston area and

Lou Susman of Chicago, John Kerry's former national finance director, on his team.

The Obama campaign has located its headquarters in a high-rise on North Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

They are leasing an 33,500-square-foot floor from Accenture Ltd., the big consulting company, for up to two years.



Barack's school picture from Punahou School via the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.



233 N. Michigan Ave., location of Obama campaign HQ from Crain's Chicago Business.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama announces website upgrade is coming (2007-02-09 15:20)

There's an announcement preview on the official Obama campaign site:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid474543990/bclid492760671/bctid492760670>

The candidate hopeful speaks, among other things, of a transformation of his website and urges supporters to seriously use the site as a campaign tool. Given that Barack is foregoing contributions from big political action committees and lobbyists, he will need this type of grassroots support, along with the conventional street-level work, to win.

Candidates with lots of supporters that don't have much money to contribute should utilize the internet. It's a great buzz machine when used properly.

A report from beet.tv quotes Joe Trippi, the internet guide of Howard Dean's campaign, who says that Barack Obama won the first viral video contest against Sam Brownback by 450,000 to 8,000. The other candidates have not used viral videos yet that be can displayed on remote sites and email.



Production specialist Mike Manley helps set up a media platform in front of Springfield, Ill.'s Old State Capitol, Friday, Feb. 9, 2007. Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous 1858 House Divided speech inside Representatives Hall, and used the governors rooms as a headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., will announce his campaign for the presidency at the Old State Capitol, Saturday. AP Photo/Seth Perlman via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The experience factor (2007-02-09 18:40)

There isn't really much to the questions on Barack Obama's experience. Although experience can be important, very few presidents have had actual experience in the White House where it counts most of all.

The system is set up to handle people without experience. There are permanent full-time bureaucrats for example who keep the government running between transitions. An appointed cabinet of experts in various fields consult with the president on the full portfolio of presidential concerns.

The president acts mainly as decision-maker, as the one who provides direction to the experienced people who actually run the government. People hope that the decisions and direction provided by the president follow the latter's platform offered during the election. Otherwise the president and the related political party pay at the next election.

If Obama is elected, he will have had four years of Washington experience on top of seven years in the Illinois state senate. Before that he worked as a community advocate and organizer, civil rights lawyer and law professor, and his education is impeccable.

The real issue is what decisions and policy will Obama make while in office. Can he work with others to get consensus? Does he have the mettle to deal with tough, high pressure situations. And probably most of all does he have the necessary integrity and honesty – will he do his best to do what he promises during the election in a law-abiding manner?

The wise voter will scrutinize Obama and all the other candidates on these important factors.



Supporters of U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) prepare posters at the University of Illinois Chicago, February 8, 2007. The rally will take place in the UIC Pavilion February 11 where Obama is expected to announce his intentions for a run for the presidency February 10. REUTERS/John Gress photo via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



JHC (2007-02-13 20:51:00)

Great site. In case you're interested, I posted an in-depth discussion about how best to answer questions about Sen. Obama's experience at my site, Obamarama.org.

New website launched (2007-02-10 09:00)



The new Obama'08 website has been released with a lot of added features. You can click on the graphic above to visit and check out the new look.

Now users can create their own profile, find nearby supporters, organize events, network, become fundraisers and maintain their own blogs onsite.

There's a page entitled "Learn" where you can find biographical information about the candidate and his family and also pictures and past speeches.

The "Issues" page has quite a comprehensive selection of position papers.

There is also a store for t-shirts and other goodies and links to official Obama pages on Facebook, Partybuilder, YouTube and Flickr.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Great speech (2007-02-10 09:42)

A great announcement speech by Barack Obama before a motivated crowd in Springfield.

He acknowledges the tough road ahead and calls on the movement to keep moving. That's what will propel him to victory.

For the base of the Democratic Party I think it is clear who their real candidate must be, but this speech will a lot of people who didn't know the candidate realize that this is the right guy for the job.

The my.barackobama.com part of the website is moving real slow now and often failing to connect (for me at least) indicating either there's a lot of traffic or someone is hacking the site ;)

Seems likes lots of groups and blogs have already been created. I believe this will be a very important part of the campaign as mentioned already before.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama announcement speech (2007-02-10 11:43)

The link to the announcement speech is below but the website appears to be bogged down by very heavy traffic. My.barackobama.com is mostly failing to connect. The full text of the speech is also found below.



Let me begin by saying thanks to all you who've traveled, from far and wide, to brave the cold today.

We all made this journey for a reason. It's humbling, but in my heart I know you didn't come here just for me, you came here because you believe in what this country can be. In the face of war, you believe there can be peace. In the face of despair, you believe there can be hope. In the face of a politics that's shut you out, that's told you to settle,

that's divided us for too long, you believe we can be one people, reaching for what's possible, building that more perfect union.

That's the journey we're on today. But let me tell you how I came to be here. As most of you know, I am not a native of this great state. I moved to Illinois over two decades ago. I was a young man then, just a year out of college; I knew no one in Chicago, was without money or family connections. But a group of churches had offered me a job as a community organizer for \$13,000 a year. And I accepted the job, sight unseen, motivated then by a single, simple, powerful idea - that I might play a small part in building a better America.

My work took me to some of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods. I joined with pastors and lay-people to deal with communities that had been ravaged by plant closings. I saw that the problems people faced weren't simply local in nature - that the decision to close a steel mill was made by distant executives; that the lack of textbooks and computers in schools could be traced to the skewed priorities of politicians a thousand miles away; and that when a child turns to violence, there's a hole in his heart no government could ever fill.

It was in these neighborhoods that I received the best education I ever had, and where I learned the true meaning of my Christian faith.

After three years of this work, I went to law school, because I wanted to understand how the law should work for those in need. I became a civil rights lawyer, and taught constitutional law, and after a time, I came to understand that our cherished rights of liberty and equality depend on the active participation of an awakened electorate. It was with these ideas in mind that I arrived in this capital city as a state Senator.

It was here, in Springfield, where I saw all that is America converge - farmers and teachers, businessmen and laborers, all of them with a story to tell, all of them seeking a seat at the table, all of them clamoring to be heard. I made lasting friendships here - friends that I see in the audience today.

It was here we learned to disagree without being disagreeable - that it's possible to compromise so long as you know those principles that can never be compromised; and that so long as we're willing to listen to each other, we can assume the best in people instead of the worst.

That's why we were able to reform a death penalty system that was broken. That's why we were able to give health insurance to children in need. That's why we made the tax system more fair and just for working families, and that's why we passed ethics reforms that the cynics said could never, ever be passed.

It was here, in Springfield, where North, South, East and West come together that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people - where I came to believe that through this decency, we can build a more hopeful America.

And that is why, in the shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a divided house to stand together, where common hopes and common dreams still, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for President of the United States.

I recognize there is a certain presumptuousness - a certain audacity - to this announcement. I know I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.

The genius of our founders is that they designed a system of government that can be changed. And we should take heart, because we've changed this country before. In the face of tyranny, a band of patriots brought an Empire to its knees. In the face of secession, we unified a nation and set the captives free. In the face of Depression, we put people back to work and lifted millions out of poverty. We welcomed immigrants to our shores, we opened railroads to the west, we landed a man on the moon, and we heard a King's call to let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Each and every time, a new generation has risen up and done what's needed to be done. Today we are called once more - and it is time for our generation to answer that call.

For that is our unyielding faith - that in the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it.

That's what Abraham Lincoln understood. He had his doubts. He had his defeats. He had his setbacks. But through his will and his words, he moved a nation and helped free a people. It is because of the millions who rallied to his cause that we are no longer divided, North and South, slave and free. It is because men and women of every race, from every walk of life, continued to march for freedom long after Lincoln was laid to rest, that today we have the chance to face the challenges of this millennium together, as one people - as Americans.

All of us know what those challenges are today - a war with no end, a dependence on oil that threatens our future, schools where too many children aren't learning, and families struggling paycheck to paycheck despite working as hard as they can. We know the challenges. We've heard them. We've talked about them for years.

What's stopped us from meeting these challenges is not the absence of sound policies and sensible plans. What's stopped us is the failure of leadership, the smallness of our politics - the ease with which we're distracted by the petty and trivial, our chronic avoidance of tough decisions, our preference for scoring cheap political points instead of rolling up our sleeves and building a working consensus to tackle big problems.

For the last six years we've been told that our mounting debts don't matter, we've been told that the anxiety Americans feel about rising health care costs and stagnant wages are an illusion, we've been told that climate change is a hoax, and that tough talk and an ill-conceived war can replace diplomacy, and strategy, and foresight. And when all else fails, when Katrina happens, or the death toll in Iraq mounts, we've been told that our crises are somebody else's fault. We're distracted from our real failures, and told to blame the other party, or gay people, or immigrants.

And as people have looked away in disillusionment and frustration, we know what's filled the void. The cynics, and the lobbyists, and the special interests who've turned our government into a game only they can afford to play. They write the checks and you get stuck with the bills, they get the access while you get to write a letter, they think they own this government, but we're here today to take it back. The time for that politics is over. It's time to turn the page.

We've made some progress already. I was proud to help lead the fight in Congress that led to the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate.

But Washington has a long way to go. And it won't be easy. That's why we'll have to set priorities. We'll have to make hard choices. And although government will play a crucial role in bringing about the changes we need, more money and programs alone will not get us where we need to go. Each of us, in our own lives, will have to accept responsibility - for instilling an ethic of achievement in our children, for adapting to a more competitive economy, for strengthening our communities, and sharing some measure of sacrifice. So let us begin. Let us begin this hard work together. Let us transform this nation.

Let us be the generation that reshapes our economy to compete in the digital age. Let's set high standards for our schools and give them the resources they need to succeed. Let's recruit a new army of teachers, and give them better pay and more support in exchange for more accountability. Let's make college more affordable, and let's invest in scientific research, and let's lay down broadband lines through the heart of inner cities and rural towns all across America.

And as our economy changes, let's be the generation that ensures our nation's workers are sharing in our prosperity. Let's protect the hard-earned benefits their companies have promised. Let's make it possible for hardworking Americans to save for retirement. And let's allow our unions and their organizers to lift up this country's middle-class again.

Let's be the generation that ends poverty in America. Every single person willing to work should be able to get job training that leads to a job, and earn a living wage that can pay the bills, and afford child care so their kids have a safe place to go when they work. Let's do this.

Let's be the generation that finally tackles our health care crisis. We can control costs by focusing on prevention, by providing better treatment to the chronically ill, and using technology to cut the bureaucracy. Let's be the generation that says right here, right now, that we will have universal health care in America by the end of the next president's first term.

Let's be the generation that finally frees America from the tyranny of oil. We can harness homegrown, alternative fuels like ethanol and spur the production of more fuel-efficient cars. We can set up a system for capping greenhouse gases. We can turn this crisis of global warming into a moment of opportunity for innovation, and job creation, and an incentive for businesses that will serve as a model for the world. Let's be the generation that makes future generations proud of what we did here.

Most of all, let's be the generation that never forgets what happened on that September day and confront the terrorists with everything we've got. Politics doesn't have to divide us on this anymore - we can work together to keep our country safe. I've worked with Republican Senator Dick Lugar to pass a law that will secure and destroy some of the world's deadliest, unguarded weapons. We can work together to track terrorists down with a stronger military, we can tighten the net around their finances, and we can improve our intelligence capabilities. But let us also understand that ultimate victory against our enemies will come only by rebuilding our alliances and exporting those ideals that bring hope and opportunity to millions around the globe.

But all of this cannot come to pass until we bring an end to this war in Iraq. Most of you know I opposed this war from the start. I thought it was a tragic mistake. Today we grieve for the families who have lost loved ones, the hearts that have been broken, and the young lives that could have been. America, it's time to start bringing our troops home. It's time to admit that no amount of American lives can resolve the political disagreement that lies at the heart of someone else's civil war. That's why I have a plan that will bring our combat troops home by March of 2008. Letting the Iraqis know that we will not be there forever is our last, best hope to pressure the Sunni and Shia to come to the table and find peace.

Finally, there is one other thing that is not too late to get right about this war - and that is the homecoming of the men and women - our veterans - who have sacrificed the most. Let us honor their valor by providing the care they need and rebuilding the military they love. Let us be the generation that begins this work.

I know there are those who don't believe we can do all these things. I understand the skepticism. After all, every four years, candidates from both parties make similar promises, and I expect this year will be no different. All of us running for president will travel around the country offering ten-point plans and making grand speeches; all of us will trumpet those qualities we believe make us uniquely qualified to lead the country. But too many times, after the election is over, and the confetti is swept away, all those promises fade from memory, and the lobbyists and the special interests move in, and people turn away, disappointed as before, left to struggle on their own.

That is why this campaign can't only be about me. It must be about us - it must be about what we can do together. This campaign must be the occasion, the vehicle, of your hopes, and your dreams. It will take your time, your energy, and your advice - to push us forward when we're doing right, and to let us know when we're not. This campaign has to be about reclaiming the meaning of citizenship, restoring our sense of common purpose, and realizing that few obstacles can withstand the power of millions of voices calling for change.

By ourselves, this change will not happen. Divided, we are bound to fail.

But the life of a tall, gangly, self-made Springfield lawyer tells us that a different future is possible.

He tells us that there is power in words.

He tells us that there is power in conviction.

That beneath all the differences of race and region, faith and station, we are one people.

He tells us that there is power in hope.

As Lincoln organized the forces arrayed against slavery, he was heard to say: "Of strange, discordant, and even hostile elements, we gathered from the four winds, and formed and fought to battle through."

That is our purpose here today.

That's why I'm in this race.

Not just to hold an office, but to gather with you to transform a nation.

I want to win that next battle - for justice and opportunity.

I want to win that next battle - for better schools, and better jobs, and health care for all.

I want us to take up the unfinished business of perfecting our union, and building a better America.

And if you will join me in this improbable quest, if you feel destiny calling, and see as I see, a future of endless possibility stretching before us; if you sense, as I sense, that the time is now to shake off our slumber, and slough off our fear, and make good on the debt we owe past and future generations, then I'm ready to take up the cause, and march with you, and work with you. Together, starting today, let us finish the work that needs to be done, and usher in a new birth of freedom on this Earth.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Watch Senator Obama on 60 Minutes (2007-02-10 16:29)



Is America ready for Obama?


http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=2457852n

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Gallery of photos from today's events (2007-02-10 18:53)


A gallery of some photographs from rallies held today after the official announcement.

1.  U.S. Sen. Barack **Obama**, talks with Simpson College student Nathan Arentsen, right, during a bus ride to an evening rally, Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, near Waterloo, Iowa.


AP via Yahoo! News - 3 minutes ago

2.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** formally announces his campaign for President in the 2008 election during a campaign rally in Springfield, Illinois, February 10, 2007. (Jason Reed/Reuters)


Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

3.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** waves in front of a U.S. flag while formally announcing his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election on February 10, 2007. (Jason Reed/Reuters)


Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

4.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** kisses wife Michelle during a campaign rally where he announced his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election, in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, February 10, 2007. (John Gress/Reuters)


Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

5.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** (D-IL) formally announces his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election during a rally in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, February 10, 2007. (Jason Reed/Reuters)


Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

6.  **Obama** leaves after announcing his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, February 10, 2007. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

7.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** steps off a chartered plane in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, February 10, 2007. **Obama** announced his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday. (Jason Reed/Reuters)

Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

8.  U.S. Senator Barack **Obama** speaks during a campaign rally in front of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois February 10, 2007 where he formally announced his campaign for U.S. President in the 2008 election. (Jason Reed/Reuters)

Reuters via Yahoo! News - 46 minutes ago

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

New endorsements pour in (2007-02-11 11:01)

As expected, the Republicans reacted to Senator Barack Obama's historic announcement yesterday, but the now-candidate also got an knock from across the pond in Australia. Prime Minister John Howard criticized Obama's firm and consistent stance against the Iraq War. I suspect there are many more overseas though that support the senator's views.

Here in the U.S., civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said that he would talk to all the candidates but that it's very likely he will endorse Obama. Today, the candidate also received endorsements from Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Iowa State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald.

In Hollywood, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg are now reportedly endorsing Obama, while the other partner of Dreamworks SKG, Steven Spielberg is reportedly supporting both Obama and Hillary Clinton.



U.S. Senator Barack Obama speaks to high school students about education at a press conference before a rally at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, February 11, 2007. REUTERS/Jason Reed photo via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Netroots and Grassroots Campaigning (2007-02-11 17:12)

The new my.barackobama.com is a good example of the power of "netroots" campaigning. Within 24 hours of launch, more than 1,000 different focus groups have been formed and the blogging is really taking off.

A lot of this is carry-over from sites like Facebook where the Obama group has more than 250,000 members. The next largest Facebook group has only something over 50,000 members.

Howard Dean used this type of social networking to raise a lot of money and support, which unfortunately was squandered too early in the campaign even months before the first poll. They quickly ran out of money during the actual election phase. I'm confident though that this will not happen in this case.

The key is transforming all this net activity into corresponding grassroots activity in the "real world" i.e., meetups, organizing, fundraising, precinct walking, phone banks, etc.

Dan from the barackobama.com blogs showed a chart from alexa.com that shows the big jump in traffic, reach and pageviews that has occurred since launch time. The site has really skyrocketed above the competitors in all categories. The alexa.com page is displayed below.



IFRAME: http://www.alexametrics.com/data/details/traffic_details?site0=www.barackobama.com&site1=www.hillaryclinton.com&site2=www.johnedwards.com&site3=www.kucinich.us&site4=www.joebiden.com&y=r&amp;z=3&h=300&w=500&range=7d&size=Medium&url=http://www.barackobama.com/

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anti-war activists prominent at Chicago rally (2007-02-12 10:25)

More than 7,000 people greeted Barack Obama at his final rally over the weekend before heading to Los Angeles. A group of anti-war protesters began calling for cutting Iraq War funding during the candidate's speech. Afterward, Obama, who has taken strong positions against the war over the weekend, said that he did not want to cut funding because it would endanger troops already in the region. He said the answer was to start bringing troops home in a full de-escalation rather than denying funds for war expenses.

Later in the day, Obama attended a fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency Chicago attended by 700 people where he reportedly made more than \$1.5 million for his campaign.

In LA, Obama will have an event at the

Rancho Cienega Sports Complex on Tuesday, Feb. 20. That evening he will also attend a big

\$2300-a-ticket reception at the Beverly Hilton Hotel

hosted by Geffen, Katzenberg and Spielberg. Reportedly there will also be a private dinner with Obama at Geffen's house for those who pledge to raise at least \$46,000.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Pics from the weekend events and 60 Minutes clip (2007-02-12 16:47)

To see the clip of Senator Barack and Michelle Obama's interview on 60 Minutes, click [here](#).

Some photos from the weekend's events can be seen below. All the photos are available at Barack Obama's flickr site – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobamadotcom/>.

Ames Rally at Hilton Coliseum

Ames Rally at Hilton Coliseum



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Give green to Obama (2007-02-12 23:06)

I've created a fundraising page over at my.barackobama.com. Show your support for green causes and Senator Barack Obama at the same time by contributing directly to his campaign effort:

Contributions from Environmental Supporters of Barack Obama

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/main/GW>

Show Senator Barack Obama that environment-minded people support him with words, action and by contributing directly to his campaign fund through this onsite fundraising page:

Guess you could say that it takes green (money) to help save green (earth).

This contribution on my.barackobama.com goes 100 % to the official campaign fund. The goal is to raise \$1000 or more.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Paul Kekai Manansala (2007-02-12 23:13:00)

I forgot to mention that if you're not a member of my.barackobama.com you will have to register, but it's a painless process.

Obama continues to draw huge crowds (2007-02-13 09:50)

The rock star appeal of Senator Barack Obama is evident on each campaign stop as he sells out venues well in advance. If size matters in political rallies, he has it all over his opponents.

And his website is getting packed as well. Yesterday, my.barackobama.com shut down temporarily as staff scurried to add more server capacity. The site has skyrocketed above all other campaign websites since the new upgrade was launched last weekend.

And it seems that issues of race and religion continue to track the candidate. Not because Obama himself have made brought these to the fore, he seems more concentrated on his broad idea of governmental transformation. It is the media and others, not just opponents, who seem focuses on his race and religion.

Having a father and stepfather who were both non-practicing Muslims, and a mother of Christian background, puts the candidate in a peculiar position. It appears his parents were more intellectual rather than religious in orientation. But Obama is a professed and practicing Christian. Whether that should matter or not is of course a valid question, but unfortunately it is a big deal. In the same way, Mitt Romney faces scrutiny over his religion of Mormonism.

Race shouldn't matter either in this day and age, but many are supremely focused on the subject even though it seems to be far from Obama's mind. Again, the candidate seems genuinely focused on a vision of changing the country for the better. With such a mindset, he can't be bogged down by any narrow set of issues.

In the end though I think all of this attention may benefit Obama because he is not the one generating the commotion. He has handled the situation in a very "presidential" manner that should allow him to garner the publicity while defocusing the polarizing subjects of race and religion.

Ames Rally at Hilton Coliseum



From <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobamadotcom/387119032/>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Howard Dean comparison (2007-02-13 21:36)

Some bloggers and commentators have compared the Obama candidacy to that of **Howard Dean** in 2004 suggesting that the senator's campaign might face the same fate.

There are, of course, some valid comparisons. Both opposed the Iraq War, for example. Both were supported by a large number of younger and "activist" types. However, there are a number of reasons to think that things could end very differently this time:

Although Dean lost he eventually did find himself a place in the party. He became head of the DNC, the head of the

Democratic Party. When he first announced he would run everyone thought he didn't have a chance, but the same people who supported him during his presidential run got him through. When Dean ran the establishment people opposed him because they thought he was too far to the left. Now Dean controls much of the establishment, although he still has significant opposition in the party apparatus. However, because of Dean's presence, things will be smoother for progressive candidates like Obama.

Obama's team has the opportunity to learn from the Dean campaign's mistakes.

Obama made national headlines during the 2004 convention. He was featured nationally for months before that time. By the time the primary rolls around he will have had more than three years of national coverage. In comparison, Dean was practically unknown nationally a year before his primary election.

There is of course no reason to think Obama will have a screaming incident like Dean. I'm sure he'll have his share of gaffes, but the Dean thing was a bit unusual even in the world of politics. Just not the right time I guess.

The opposition to the war is deeper now than during 2004. Many people think the Democratic victories in the Congressional races last time were indications of a growing desire to end the war. People are also tired of traditional politics and traditional politicians.

Howard Dean was a great speaker and had great views, but I think it is clear that Barack Obama has a rare type of charisma. He has "rock star" appeal.

There are probably some other reasons I'm not thinking of now, but I should also mention that while Dean had bloggers, Obama has both bloggers and social networkers. The latter are the people who drive websites like Facebook and MySpace.

Bloggers are sort of like media and publicity people, while social networkers are person-to-person like canvassers and phone-bankers. There are many more social networkers than bloggers so if you can utilize them properly it certainly will pay off at the ballot box.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Should Obama target the South? (2007-02-14 10:07)

An interesting article by Prof. Jacob Straus of Frostburg State University in West Virginia thinks Obama should target the South, and specifically South Carolina in the primaries. He uses as an example John F. Kennedy's decision to focus on West Virginia back in 1960.

Personally I plan on helping Obama in the important primary state of Nevada which is close to where I live in California.

The Obama website continues to cruise reaching 1,035 out of every 1 million internet users according to alexa.com. In comparison hillaryclinton.com coming in second among all candidates, Democrat and Republican, reaches only about 70 out of every million users. Some 70,000 users have registered at my.barackobama.com since it launched last week.



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Obama lands key endorsement (2007-02-14 18:35)

BarackObama.com took a Valentine's Day hit today as did other presidential sites. No news on how the potential first couple dubbed as Barchelle (Barack + Michelle) by one author, celebrated the holiday.

They had reason to be happy though as copies of Ebony magazine featuring the couple on the cover are selling out at bookstores. Also, Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine is expected to endorse Obama it was reported today.



Obama's name recognition is growing rapidly as his campaign team seeks to spread the word.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Paul (2007-02-14 22:52:00)

"BarChelle Will Rule ! ; Looks as though BarChelle.com is reserved and Good Times Are Here Again.

Just goes to prove that, "History does have a Consciousness" ;

Barack visits New Hampshire (2007-02-15 08:28)

A story and some photos from Barack Obama's visits to New Hampshire, one of four important primary states the others being Iowa, South Carolina and Nevada.

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobamadotcom/>



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



"It started in Springfield..." (2007-02-15 12:47)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack's "Youthroots" (2007-02-15 18:57)

Sam Graham-Felsen writes about Barack Obama's "youthroots" – his unprecedented support among young people – who are usually thought of as apathetic towards politics.

" 'He has unimaginable appeal to my generation,' says Brian Klaas of Carleton College, editor of the *Carleton Progressive*. For many 18- to 26-year-olds—who are among the most diverse and, according to numerous polls, most tolerant American generation in history—Obama's multiracial background embodies the personal and political identity of the Generation Y cohort known as "Millennials."

" In a *Chicago Reader* interview from 1995, Barack Obama wondered, "What if a politician were to see his job as that of an organizer?" If Obama can show his young followers that he's still that grassroots organizer—a rock star perhaps, but one who listens to, trusts and empowers his base to come on stage and rock with him—it's going to be one hell of a show."

Mo Money

The Obama camp bagged another top fundraiser, again in Hillary Clinton country, when

Steven Gluckstern, an investment banker and former owner of the New York Islanders committed to the campaign. A *Newsweek* article discusses the deep pockets in both parties, of which, Obama has some of the deepest including Peter Bittenwieser, George Soros and Alan Solomont. It is highly likely though that small internet contributions will drive the campaign much the same way that they fueled Dean's 2004 effort.



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Obama and Seniors (2007-02-16 08:19)

While the Obama campaign has been mostly viewed as a movement generated by young people, the candidate's concern and appeal to seniors cannot be overlooked.

"Barack Obama will be the Democratic candidate in 2008. He provides a phenomenal vision for seniors, first-time voters. He is the one who can carry our ideals to the forefront," said former Illinois State Senator Larry Walsh in an interview with nwi.com.

Obama's support for improved, affordable and universal healthcare will appeal to the powerful senior voting bloc, traditionally one of the most influential in electoral politics.

"Every senior citizen deserves to retire with dignity and respect," Obama told young Facebook supporters at a George Mason University rally.

As a member of the Illinois state senate, Obama sponsored the Health Care Justice Act, to research roads toward statewide universal healthcare and co-sponsored a prescription drug discount buying club for seniors and the disabled. In both cases, his legislation passed.

On Social Security, he opposes privatization and believes the system can be fixed with less drastic measures.

"The crisis in Social Security, I believe, is overstated in the sense that, if we make some adjustments to the system, as we did in 1983, we can assure the solvency of the system.

"Medicaid and Medicare are genuinely in crisis because health care inflation is so outstripping the expansion of the economy that it is gobbling up more and more taxpayer dollars, and it's going to get worse because of demographics," he said. "Folks get older, and they require more medical care."

Book still high on charts

In his quest for name recognition, the senator must be happy that his book *The Audacity of Hope* is listed at no. 2 on the Wall Street Journal list of best-sellers in the non-fiction category.

An alexa.com candidate tracking page shows that not only is barackobama.com at the top spot among candidate websites, but that Obama's Wikipedia entry is in the third slot just behind hillaryclinton.com.

Also in the area of name recognition, endorsements like that of blogger Arianna Huffington, mistress of The Huffington Post, can be very helpful.

However, the internet is limited in reaching out to certain groups, including seniors who often are not online. The campaign must find other ways of getting their message across to these voters.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Word on the Street (2007-02-16 15:46)



Expect lots of campaign stops in New Hampshire, Nevada, Iowa and South Carolina as these states determine who has the momentum for the rest of the election. There will be in order the caucuses in Iowa and New Hampshire and the primaries in Iowa and South Carolina before all other states.

It used to be that a candidate had to win New Hampshire in order to win the primary and election, but the last two presidents – Bill Clinton and George W. Bush – actually lost that state on their first runs.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Nevada, Nevada (2007-02-17 10:35)

The state of Nevada will hold its Democratic caucus between the Iowa caucus, the first in the nation, and the New Hampshire primary.

Nevada may for the first time play a decisive role in who wins the nomination. It is probably the most progressive state among those holding early contests, and it has good minority and labor union representation. Las Vegas, one of the nation's booming cities, has one of the best cross-sections of people from around the country that you will find anywhere.

Basically, Nevada can be seen as a better thermometer of what the nation thinks as a whole. It also is the only Western representative among the early states.

Sen. Barack Obama is headed for Las Vegas on Feb. 18 where he will hold a rally at the Clark County Government Center.

Nevada is a great state for grassroots campaigning as many of the residents are newcomers who have not registered to vote locally.

One thing candidates must learn is how to correctly pronounce the name of the state, something of which residents expect of their candidates.



Barack Obama's appearance in Columbia. To view the videos you will need Windows Media Player.

- Obama's introduction (5 minutes)
- Thoughts on education (1.5 minutes)
- Thoughts on healthcare (2.5 minutes)
- A plan for Iraq (2.5 minutes)
- Final thoughts (4 minutes)

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Barack Obama against the war in 2002 (2007-02-18 09:31)

26 October 2002 speech in Chicago at Federal Plaza:

"I stand before you as someone who is not opposed to war in all circumstances. The Civil War was one of the bloodiest in history, and yet it was only through the crucible of the sword, the sacrifice of multitudes, that we could begin to perfect this union and drive the scourge of slavery from our soil.

I Don't Oppose All Wars

I don't oppose all wars. My grandfather signed up for a war the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, fought in Patton's army. He fought in the name of a larger freedom, part of that arsenal of democracy that triumphed over evil.

I don't oppose all wars. After September 11, after witnessing the carnage and destruction, the dust and the tears, I supported this administration's pledge to hunt down and root out those who would slaughter innocents in the name of intolerance, and I would willingly take up arms myself to prevent such tragedy from happening again.

Opposed to Dumb, Rash Wars

I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war. What I am opposed to is the cynical attempt by Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz and other armchair, weekend warriors in this administration to shove their own ideological agendas down our throats, irrespective of the costs in lives lost and in hardships borne.

What I am opposed to is the attempt by political hacks like Karl Rove to distract us from a rise in the uninsured, a rise in the poverty rate, a drop in the median income, to distract us from corporate scandals and a stock market that has just gone through the worst month since the Great Depression.

That's what I'm opposed to. A dumb war. A rash war. A war based not on reason but on passion, not on principle but on politics.

On Saddam Hussein

Now let me be clear: I suffer no illusions about Saddam Hussein. He is a brutal man. A ruthless man. A man who butchers his own people to secure his own power.... The world, and the Iraqi people, would be better off without him.

But I also know that Saddam poses no imminent and direct threat to the United States, or to his neighbors...and that in concert with the international community he can be contained until, in the way of all petty dictators, he falls away into the dustbin of history.

I know that even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences.

I know that an invasion of Iraq without a clear rationale and without strong international support will only fan the flames of the Middle East, and encourage the worst, rather than best, impulses of the Arab world, and strengthen the recruitment arm of al-Qaeda.

I am not opposed to all wars. I'm opposed to dumb wars. So for those of us who seek a more just and secure world for our children, let us send a clear message to the president.

You Want a Fight, President Bush?

You want a fight, President Bush? Let's finish the fight with Bin Laden and al-Qaeda, through effective, coordinated intelligence, and a shutting down of the financial networks that support terrorism, and a homeland security program that involves more than color-coded warnings.

You want a fight, President Bush? Let's fight to make sure that...we vigorously enforce a nonproliferation treaty, and that former enemies and current allies like Russia safeguard and ultimately eliminate their stores of nuclear material,

and that nations like Pakistan and India never use the terrible weapons already in their possession, and that the arms merchants in our own country stop feeding the countless wars that rage across the globe.

You want a fight, President Bush? Let's fight to make sure our so-called allies in the Middle East, the Saudis and the Egyptians, stop oppressing their own people, and suppressing dissent, and tolerating corruption and inequality, and mismanaging their economies so that their youth grow up without education, without prospects, without hope, the ready recruits of terrorist cells.

You want a fight, President Bush? Let's fight to wean ourselves off Middle East oil through an energy policy that doesn't simply serve the interests of Exxon and Mobil.

Those are the battles that we need to fight. Those are the battles that we willingly join. The battles against ignorance and intolerance. Corruption and greed. Poverty and despair." —

Below is a YouTube video of a 2002 interview of Barack Obama in which he declares he would have voted against the Iraq War.

X

X

2002 Barack Obama Interview: Against Iraq

02:47

From: jakeb1125

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama gets former SC Democratic chief's endorsement (2007-02-19 11:48)

Presidential candidate Barack Obama picked up a welcome endorsement Monday from Dick Harpootlian, the former haed of the South Carolina Democratic Party.

"I see in Barack Obama ... the same magnetism I saw in Bill Clinton," said Harpootlian on Friday, who also said he would immediately begin fundraising for the senator. "I think it will be easy to raise money for him."

On Tuesday, Obama will attend a star-studded Hollywood fundraiser, the biggest celebrity bash so far this campaign, hosted by the moguls of DreamWorks SKG. On the same day he will attend an afternoon rally at Ranch Cienega Sports Complex where he is expected to discuss bring all combat troops home from Iraq by March 2008, and on the need for energy independence.



Barack Obama in South Carolina - 2/16/07

Photo By Jack Jenkins

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobamadotcom/395469232/>

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Opponents eating Obama's MySpace dust (2007-02-19 20:13)

Many people have heard of Obama's unparalleled popularity on Facebook.com, but what about MySpace, the net's largest social network?

The techPresident site has figures showing that Obama has nearly twice as many friends as second-place Clinton, although the latter has been climbing in friends recently. Some techie observers note that Hillary's sudden jump is mostly due to the page having been down for a bit.

MySpace friends

Democrats # of friends

Obama 11.8 % 43003

Clinton 92.7 % 23428

Edwards 4.0 % 11593

Vilsack 4.1 % 1347

Kucinich 13.6 % 1078

Richardson 18.6 % 661
Biden 15.4 % 510
Dodd 17.9 % 172
% change in last week
Republicans

Paul 529.8 % 2501
Romney 5.4 % 1373
McCain 3.3 % 1051
Tancredo 18.2 % 637
Giuliani 14.9 % 385
Huckabee 0.6 % 166
% change in last week

Updated Feb 18, 2007

[See full graph](#)

The Republicans are far behind in MySpace popularity which is not surprising as over the years the Web has become the progressive counter to the conservative's talk radio.

Whether social network and blog popularity will convert to votes is of course an important question.

There are those who believe that the Democratic wave that occurred in the 2006 election was assisted by the Web's increasingly progressive outlook.

The range of people who use the internet has broadened considerably, and a very significant percentage of people now depend on the internet for most of their news, including political news.

As to whether Obama's internet popularity can compete with Clinton's money, this question takes for granted that Obama will not be highly competitive with Hillary in raising money. The internet is a proven source of nearly unlimited funds, although in Barack's case we are still waiting for reports that his support is indeed translating into dollars.

18

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

18

Obama team fires back at LA Times article (2007-02-20 08:43)

The Obama team reacted quickly today to an LA Times article suggesting that Barack Obama overplayed his role in the Atlgeld Gardens absestos case in his books "Dreams of My Father."

Here is the response to the LA Times:

Today, the Los Angeles Times published an article entitled “Fellow Activists Say Obama’s Memoir Has Too Many I’s” which implies that Obama partially fictionalized events in Altgeld Gardens in the 1980s in order to enhance the role he played in the community there.

The implication is false, and the article is misleading. At no point in the work does Obama take “singular” credit for initiating and leading efforts on the Altgeld asbestos problem. In fact, those who worked with him confirm that he preferred a background role in the matter, refusing to claim credit or even be in pictures taken of the community group. However, despite the fact that he shunned a public role, Obama’s work is clearly remembered by Altgeld residents, other organizers, and the reporter that the LA Times and others credit with bringing the problem of asbestos in Chicago’s public housing to light.

LA TIMES: Obama Says He Initiated and Led Efforts That Thrust Altgeld’s Asbestos Problem Into the Headlines

FACT: Obama Helped Residents In Altgeld Organize, But Stayed in Background

Yvonne Lloyd Worked With Obama In Altgeld Gardens: “He Always Stayed in the Background...Behind the Scenes.” Yvonne Lloyd, a mother of 11 who was the basis for the character “Shirley” in *Dreams of My Father*, worked with Obama during the effort to remove asbestos from the Altgeld Garden apartments. She remembers that Obama “trained us to be leaders...I would come to him with an issue and he would help us figure it out [but] he always stayed in the background. And we used to say to him, ‘Barack, come on and do this,’ and he would say no. Even when we took pictures, he always stayed behind the scenes, because it was our community.” Lloyd attended the meetings with the Chicago Housing Authority described in *Dreams of My Father* and remembers working with Obama on the issue, saying that he “helped us make presentations, but he never scripted us. Because that’s [scripting] not telling the truth. And if I’m telling the truth, I can tell it anywhere.” [Conversation with Yvonne Lloyd, 2/9/07]

Linda Randle, A Community Organizer In The Ida B. Wells Project, Worked With Obama: “He Didn’t Take Credit for Anything.” Linda Randle worked in the Ida B. Wells housing project, which also had problems with asbestos, as a community organizer. She filed a complaint with the EPA and worked with Martha Allen, a reporter for the *Chicago Reporter*, to bring the public’s attention to the issue. Randle, who knew Obama through his work in Altgeld, said “Barack and I would get together and we would talk... When he was having problems [with the work], we would talk about it – he would ask, ‘What do I need to do to open up my head to hear what they’re saying to me?’...But he didn’t take credit for anything.” [Chicago Reporter, June 1986; Conversation with Linda Randle, 2/16/07]

LA TIMES: Others Say...That Credit for Pushing Officials To Deal With Asbestos Goes to A Pre-Existing Group and A Local Newspaper Called the Chicago Reporter

FACT: Reporter That Broke the Asbestos Story For the Chicago Reporter Gives Obama, Others Credit for The Action Taken By the Housing Authority

Martha Allen, Reporter With the Chicago Reporter: Proud of The Work She Did on Asbestos, But Community Organizers including Barack Obama Were Working On The Issue “Long Before” She Raised It. Martha Allen, who did the original reporting on the issue of asbestos in Chicago’s public housing projects in 1986, said that although she’s proud of the reporting she did for the *Chicago Reporter*, she can’t take credit for the action that was eventually taken by the Chicago Housing Authority. “That [taking credit] implies that I opened the eyes of folks in Altgeld [on this issue] and that’s not true. Obama [and others like Linda Randle] were working on this long before I got there.” [Conversation with Martha Allen, 2/16/07]

Chicago Reporter Articles Credited With Raising Issue Do Not Mention Hazel Johnson or Her Group, People for Community Recovery. Martha Allen’s reports on the asbestos issue in 1986, which Rep. Bobby Rush credits with raising the profile of the asbestos problem in Altgeld Gardens and Ida B. Wells, do not mention Hazel Johnson or People for Community Recovery, Johnson’s group. Linda Randle, who filed the initial complaint with the EPA, is mentioned in the story Allen published in June. [The Chicago Reporter, June 1986 and July, 1986]

Linda Randle Remembers Working Closely With Obama on the Asbestos Issue. Randle, who knew Obama through his work in Altgeld, said “Barack was working with the women in Altgeld [on asbestos] and he brought some of them to talk to me, and then we put together a meeting for me to go talk to them in Altgeld.” Although the residents of Ida B. Wells and Altgeld Gardens failed to join forces on the issue, Randle and Obama continued to work together. [Conversation with Linda Randle, 2/16/07]

Chicago Reporter Article Credit Protests in Altgeld Gardens With Helping Raise Public Awareness of the Asbestos Problem in Public Housing. In addition, Allen writes in the July edition of the Chicago Reporter that the Chicago Housing Authority’s decision to remove asbestos from the Ida B. Wells Extension Homes was triggered by her story in June and “by the protests of residents at another South Side housing development, Altgeld Gardens [at] 130th Street and Langley Avenue.” [The Chicago Reporter, July 1986]

LA TIMES: Hazel Johnson’s Role Was So Prominent That It Was “Offensive” To Tell the Story of Altgeld Gardens Without Including Her

FACT: Johnson Was An Activist, Not An Organizer; CHA Action Came After Obama, Randle, and Others Organized Residents Around the Issue

Johnson Raised the Issue With Public Health Experts in “Early 1980s”; No Action Was Taken Until 1986. Johnson raised the asbestos issue with Regnal Jones, a “scientist that [she was trying to get] to study possible links between the ailments that residents reported to her and [asbestos]...Jones visited Johnson in the early 1980s recalls sitting in her kitchen as she laid out hundreds of index cards listing the illnesses throughout Altgeld.” However, no action was taken to address the asbestos in Ida B. Wells or Altgeld Gardens until 1986. [Los Angeles Times, 2/19/07; Chicago Reporter, July 1986]

Jerry Kellman: Obama Pulled Together A Variety of People That Others Could Not. Jerry Kellman, who was the basis for the character “Marty” in *Dreams of my Father*, was Obama’s supervisor at the Developing Communities Project. When asked about the role that Johnson played in the asbestos work at Altgeld, Kellman said, “Barack pulled together a variety of people that someone like Hazel would not have been able to do at that point. Barack’s book is very accurate.” [Conversation with Jerry Kellman, 2/7/07]

Loretta Augustine-Herron: Hazel Johnson Was An Activist, Not An Organizer. Loretta Augustine-Herron, who was the basis for the character “Angela” in *Dreams of My Father*, was present at the initial meeting with the Chicago Housing Authority to discuss the issue of asbestos in the Altgeld Garden apartments. When asked about the role that Johnson played in the asbestos work at Altgeld, Augustine-Herron said, “Hazel was there [for the asbestos work]...[she] might have been an activist. But she was not an organizer.” [Conversations with Loretta Augustine-Herron, 2/9/07, 2/14/07]

Augustine-Herron: Before Obama, “There Really Wasn’t Anything Happening.” Augustine-Herron said that “There was work [on the asbestos issue in Altgeld] going on before Barack got there, but before him, there wasn’t really anything happening. He really came in and started building a base and empowering people [Conversation With Loretta Augustine-Herron, 2/14/07]

Johnson And Obama Worked Together On Asbestos. “Altgeld Gardens resident Hazel Johnson, 69, worked with Obama in the Developing Communities Project on pushing the Chicago Housing Authority to remove asbestos from public housing and other issues. She remembers Obama renting a bus to take a group of residents downtown to protest at CHA headquarters. ‘He even got us coffee and doughnuts,’ she said. “And he didn’t have to do that.” [Chicago Sun Times, 10/3/04]

LA TIMES: Obama Painted Altgeld Gardens Residents As “Pathetic,” “Meek,” And “Confused”

FACT: Obama Wrote of Residents With Respect; Saw Parallels Between His Personal Story and Theirs

Obama Wrote Admiringly of Women He Worked With in Altgeld, Respected the Challenges They Faced. In *Dreams of My Father*, Obama wrote, “They were spirited, good-humored women [the women he worked with at Developing

Communities], those three, women who—without husbands to help—somehow managed to raise sons and daughters, juggle an assortment of part-time jobs and small business schemes, and organize Girl Scout troops, fashion shows, and summer camps for the parade of children that wandered through the church every day.” [Dreams of My Father, p.167]

Obama Saw Parallels Between His Personal Story and Altgeld Resident. “Sometimes I would stop by Mary’s house just to say hello, drawn perhaps by the loneliness I sensed there, and the easy parallels between my own mother and Mary; and between myself and Mary’s daughters, such sweet and pretty girls whose lives were so much more difficult than mine had ever been, with grandparents who shunned them, black classmates who teased them, all the poison in the air.” [Dreams of My Father, p.176]

LA TIMES: Obama Exaggerated His Own Achievements, Wrote that His Group Was Called “Obama’s Army” By Resident
FACT: “Obama’s Army” Was Sarcastic Reference To Small Turnout For An Event

Obama’s Army Sarcastic Reference To Small Turnout For First Visit to Housing Authority. Despite days of organizing, the turnout for his visit to the Chicago Housing Authority was smaller than Obama expected. He wrote, “...I counted only eight heads in the yellow bus parked in front of the school. Bernadette and I stood in the parking lot trying to recruit other parents as they came to pick up their children...When Angela, Mona, and Shirley arrived to see how things were shaping up, I insisted they ride with us to lend moral support. Everyone looked depressed, everyone except Tyrone and Jewel, who were busy making faces at Mr. Lucas, the only father in the group. Dr. Collier came up beside me. ‘I guess this is it,’ I said. ‘Better than I expected...Obama’s Army,’ she said. [Dreams of My Father, p. 238]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack wows crowd in San Francisco (2007-02-20 09:00)

Check out Barack Obama’s videotaped speech at a Barbara Boxer event in San Francisco:
<http://cbs5.com/video/?id=20933@kpix.dayport.com>

Barack in Las Vegas

Las Vegas 2/18/07

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Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine gives Barack Obama first endorsement (2007-02-20 14:53)



Virginia Governor Tim Kaine came out early to give Senator Barack Obama the nation's first gubernatorial endorsement.

The endorsement was announced before a crowd of 3,500 people at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Richmond, a record for the city. Obama addressed the crowd and spoke to the press.

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Is Barack Black, White, Christian, Muslim, Progressive, Conservative, Messiah/Superhero, Human, All-American, Feriegner, Osama, Obama? (2007-02-21 10:07)

According to host Jeffrey Katzenberg, Barack Obama garnered \$1.3 million in checks at last night's Hollywood fundraiser bash.

Another bit of good news for the campaign is the endorsement of Minnesota U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, the first Muslim member of the U.S. Congress and the first black representative from Minnesota. Ellison said he's not supporting Obama because he is black as that would be what he called "identity politics" but because Obama was a unifying agent.

Speaking of identity politics, Obama's nebulous identity may be part of his attraction. To some he is black, according to his own self-definition, but to others he is sufficiently white because of his mother's heritage. His grandparents from Kansas seemed to have imparted enough all-American charm to allow him to attract small-town America, yet his African father and the years spent in Indonesia as a youth is also attractive to immigrants and their children.

His willingness to cast himself as an "agent of change" will appeal to the messianic crowd looking for a 'new age' and superheroes. Whether he will be able to deliver the promised change is a matter of faith, but as Obama says himself he can't do it alone.

Biracial and multiracial people certainly must find Obama compelling and there are lots of them in America these days. Many multi-generational Americans were raised at least partly overseas as military dependents or because their parents worked for multinational corporations or for some other reason. Their numbers may even exceed those raised their whole lives in some small town in middle America, as some of their parents may have been.

Obama's amorphous identity makes it easy for a lot of people to find commonality with him, or at least to find something attractive about him. Like the islands of Hawai'i where he was raised he has a broad appeal to all kinds of people.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Support the Iraq War De-Escalation Act (2007-02-21 15:33)

Sign the petition to stop the Iraq War.

X

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Daschle endorses Obama (2007-02-21 17:51)

Barack Obama is on a roll today picking up another key endorsement when former Senate leader Tom Daschle announced his support of the candidate.

There was a flareup today between the Clinton and Obama camps over statements made by Hollywood producer David Geffen. Although Obama has pledged not to get negative it will be a challenge to avoid getting into a word war with the Clinton spin-masters. Note that Geffen is a supporter but not a member of Obama's campaign staff.

Click on the photo below for pics of the huge Los Angeles rally yesterday:

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama Honeymoon? (2007-02-22 11:13)

Funny how the media continues to talk about a Barack Obama "honeymoon" as if the press were treating the candidate with kid-gloves.

Yet, what other candidate has been taking more media heat than Obama? He has been falsely accused of attending a madrassa in Indonesia, there are continuing press reports about his smoking habit, and there are constant questions about his identity.

Obama is under some of the most intense scrutiny any candidate might face this early in the race. Which of the other candidates is attracting so many questions as to their viability for the presidency?

Maybe it's not that bad a thing though has it can help boost the candidate's name recognition and get people to find out more about the real Barack Obama. The real danger to the other candidates is that the people will actually see and hear this guy in action.



Democratic presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a town hall meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, in Des Moines, Iowa. AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



People still surging toward Barack Obama (2007-02-23 07:42)

The Illinois senator still clearly leads other candidates in two areas: the huge crowds that attend his rallies and massive internet interest and support.

Today, an estimated 16,000 people will cheer for Obama as he lands in Austin, Texas, an obviously important state for any future nominee.

The candidate will be in Cleveland, Ohio on Feb. 26 and at the AFSCME Council in Chicago on Mar. 3.

Read this article on the great enthusiasm on the ground for Obama in the important state of Iowa.

Oprah reiterates support for Obama

Megastar Oprah Winfrey said publicly she will back Barack Obama on the Ellen Degeneres' chat show on Thursday. The endorsement might help the senator cut through some of Clinton's support among women among whom Oprah is highly popular. "I'm feeling Barack," said Winfrey.



Democratic presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a town hall meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, in Des Moines, Iowa. AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sacramento for Obama Group Meeting Video (2007-02-23 17:48)

Still need more practice on videotaping. I think the lighting was too low.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oscars Night (2007-02-25 08:41)

Judging from a report from a pre-Oscar night Black Enterprise celebrity party, Barack Obama is doing quite favorably among black Hollywood stars and moguls, as compared maybe to his support among black politicians. Magic Johnson, though, is one powerful LA personality that appears strongly behind Hillary Clinton.

There's some people who think that Al Gore still may decide to run and that he might announce tonight some time around the Oscars ceremony.

Most insiders though doubt that Gore will run. He hasn't done the things a prudent guy like Gore would have done for a presidential campaign. His campaign accounts and infrastructure are all closed down. Many of his supporters were from the old Clinton network and the bulk are probably now solidly committed. He'll be close to two months behind the other candidates if he decides to announce now. Given his time out of the political circuit would one think he would have started earlier rather than later.

Quite a lot of early endorsements are already locked in and campaign professionals are being hired by one camp or another.

Many pollsters still drop Gore if he doesn't announce tonight. There will be a scramble for the draft Gore supporters, just as there is now for Tom Vilsack's backers. Personally I think most of the folks from both camps will head either toward Obama or Edwards.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack's Favorable Unfavorable Ratings (2007-02-26 19:34)

Although it's still way too early to figure out who's going to win the primaries using polls, there is one very good thing that Obama supporters can glean from the information they provide.

Most polls show that Barack Obama has the lowest unfavorable ratings among the major candidates. This is probably the best indication that his race will not play that big of a factor. The logic is that most people who would not vote for a person who is black would have an unfavorable attitude toward Obama in a presidential poll.

A weaker point in polls is found in that Obama's supporters still include lots of weak to moderate supporters. However, these polls almost always survey highly-likely voters. One thing that can be seen quite clearly is that the Barack Obama campaign is attracting many people who would not qualify as highly-likely voters.

If these people turn out on election day, then the polls probably won't give an accurate count.

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Announcement

Watch Senator Obama make his presidential announcement to 15,000+ people in Springfield, IL.

- X

Concord, NH

Get the word on the street from New Hampshire natives about Barack Obama.

• X

Obama in Ames, Iowa

See footage from Ames on Senator Obama's first swing through Iowa.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama looks for funds as reporting deadline nears (2007-02-26 19:47)

The Obama campaign had a good fundraising day in Ohio raking in possibly as much as \$500,000 in Cincinnati and more than \$100,000 in Columbus. A smaller amount was raised at a downtown Cleveland event and at least \$75,000 in Kentucky. The candidate will try to make as much money as possible before the end of March to show that he is not lightweight in the fundraising department.

One could say that he should have at least \$10 million to look viable although others will insist he needs at least \$20 million or even \$40 million. One doesn't know where these higher figures come from as Howard Dean had raised only about \$25 million by the end of September in the last Democratic primary.

Steve Westly the ex-Ebay founder and former state controller is arranging a big \$1,000 a plate San Francisco Bay Area dinner for Obama in March. There are similar big events scheduled in New York and elsewhere.

The big factor though in Obama's campaign that doesn't show up in campaign financial reports is his huge fan base that no other candidate comes close to approaching. If these supporters volunteer work hours that's as good as money as long as the energy is focused on winning over other supporters.

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Democratic presidential contender Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a rally Monday, Feb. 26, 2007, at Cuyahoga Community College, in Highland Hills, Ohio. AP Photo/Tony Dejak via Yahoo News.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Buying name recognition (2007-02-27 12:53)

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney started buying tv ads last week some 11 months before the primary election begins.

He's trying to buy name recognition to boost his ratings in the polls and make him look more viable as a candidate. Romney is well-funded. He made \$6.5 million in one night in January. However, the most recent Zogby poll didn't indicate much movement in Romney's popularity. He still ranks far behind Giuliani and McCain.

Some experts think it will take between \$10 to \$20 million to get Romney on a level field with the leaders but how long will it last?

Even with very good funding, it's probably better to rely on free media coverage this early in the race.

You could think of the campaign at this stage as similar to training and preseason games in professional sports. The regular season would begin about two months before the election. The playoffs about two weeks before the elections, and the league championships a week prior.

Game time comes those last three or four days including election day.

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"The Audacity of Hope" continues to roll (2007-02-27 19:35)

The Audacity of Hope is number one for non-fiction on the New York Times best-seller list.

That's a lot of "earned media" for the candidate. Earned media is the insider way of referring to free media coverage, although it usually means news coverage.

On the campaign trail, Obama has had to deal with some nasty weather but his message seems to be hitting home, especially his opposition to the Iraq War.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama interview on NPR (2007-02-28 10:45)

Listen to Barack Obama's interview on National Public Radio:

Obama to Attend Selma March Anniversary

 by Steve Inskeep

The transcript can be found here:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7630250>

Hear Obama on Campaign Fundraising Efforts 



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



1.3 March

More early support for Obama (2007-03-01 10:30)

Rep. Adam Smith became the first representative from Washington state to endorse Sen. Barack Obama during a congressional breakfast held by 14 House members Wednesday.

The senator announced an idea to change the funding scheme for homeland security. The new plan would "ensure the funding is allocated based on the threats states face, not politics."



Candy and note cards sit on a staffers desk in the Obama for President headquarters, Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, in Des Moines, Iowa. AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall via Yahoo News.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Polls suggest Obama best poised to beat Republicans (2007-03-01 10:47)

Two new polls indicate Barack Obama is the best Democrat to challenge the Republican hopefuls.

The latest Zogby poll showed that while Clinton fell behind both Giuliani and McCain in a head-to-head match, Obama beat both Republican bets.

Giuliani 47 %, Clinton 40 %

Giuliani 40 %, **Obama 46 %**

Giuliani 46 %, Edwards 40 %

McCain 47 %, Clinton 39 %

McCain 40 %, **Obama 44 %**

McCain 47 %, Edwards 38 %

Romney 35 %, **Clinton 45 %**

Romney 29 %, **Obama 51 %**

Romney 32 %, **Edwards 47 %**

Today a Times poll showed Hillary beaten by both Giuliani and McCain. Obama also trails Giuliani but beats McCain.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Wexler endorses Obama (2007-03-01 16:44)

Sen. Barack Obama snagged another important endorsement today as Robert Wexler became the first member of the Florida Democratic congressional delegation to endorse Obama.

Wexler also agreed to become Obama's Florida state co-chair.

"I have never been as excited about a candidate for president as I am about Barack Obama," said a statement released by Wexler's office.

"I am inspired by his message of authenticity, integrity and bringing Americans together. Barack had the foresight to oppose the Iraq War from the beginning, and as president he will bring our troops home. I have spoken with Barack to discuss the dangers facing our ally Israel, and I am convinced there will be no stronger supporter of Israel than President Obama." Wexler is Jewish and a strong Israel supporter and his endorsement can help with the Jewish vote and associated big-money fundraisers (bundlers).

"Billary" raises a million a week

In response to Barack Obama's big Hollywood fundraiser, Bill Clinton sent a mass email calling on his wife's supporters to raise a million in one week on the Clinton website. A big fundraising "thermometer" was placed on the frontpage and Billary (Bill + Hillary) apparently accomplished their goal.

John Edwards is also using the same technique on his site. The Obama campaign may want to keep their online fundraising progress secret until the April 15 disclosure deadline has they don't allow complete tracking of online donations.

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Barack to appear on network morning shows Mar. 2 (2007-03-01 16:46)

Senator Obama will appear on the three network morning shows tomorrow, possibly to discuss his new plan on homeland security as well as the campaign.

- Mar. 2 | Barack on The Today Show NBC
- Mar. 2 | Barack on Good Morning America ABC

- Mar. 2 | Barack on the Early Show CBS



Democratic Presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 1, 2007 to discuss a bill to protect injured soldiers returning from war. AP Photo/Susan Walsh via Yahoo News.



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Team Obama holds conference call with colleges (2007-03-02 09:13)

Obama campaign representative Bill Burton held a 15 minute conference call with 25 college newspapers telling them that the universities would play an important role in the Obama campaign.

"If you look at his schedule, he's spent a lot of time on college campuses," Burton said during the call. "This is a different kind of election."

The candidate's massive support among young voters has given him stronger online support than even Howard Dean enjoyed. Dean was able to raise lots of money online where the average donation over the primary was about \$80.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Squaring off in Selma (2007-03-04 08:52)

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama will fight for the black vote and for free media coverage during the jubilee commemoration of the voting rights march on Selma.

Some polls are showing that Obama now leads Clinton among African American voters, one of the strongest blocs in any Democratic presidential primary particularly because of their strength in southern States.

This will be the first time the two candidates have met on the campaign trail.



[Image from USDOJ]



Civil rights marchers cross the Alabama river on the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Selma March 21, 1965, with Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. at the lead at the start of a five day, 50-mile march to the State Capitol of Montgomery for voter registration rights for blacks. AP Photo/File via Yahoo News.

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Obama thrills Selma crowds (2007-03-04 13:16)

Calling on what he calls the "Joshua Generation" to "finish the journey," Senator Barack Obama spoke to a massive crowd at Selma's Brown Chapel AME Church.

Obama compared the Selma march to Moses' journey through the desert only to be told he could not enter the "Promised Land." Describing the younger generation as the "Joshua Generation," he asked them to put on the struggle of the older civil rights fighters.

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Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at the Martin and Coretta King Beloved Community Unity Breakfast, Sunday March 4, 2007 in Selma, Ala. (AP Photo/Rob Carr)

If you like voting in online polls visit the following link:

<http://abcnews.go.com/>

Find under "Be Seen, Be Heard," the first selection to vote for president if the election were held today (second column below the fold).

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Selma Speech (2007-03-04 16:45)

Read the full transcript of Barack Obama's speech in Selma, Alabama.

"Keep in your heart the prayer of that journey, the prayer that God gave to Joshua. Be strong and have courage in the face of injustice. Be strong and have courage in the face of prejudice and hatred, in the face of joblessness and helplessness and hopelessness. Be strong and have courage, brothers and sisters, those who are gathered here today, in the face of our doubts and fears, in the face of skepticism, in the face of cynicism, in the face of a mighty river. Be strong and have courage and let us cross over that Promised Land together."

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Anonymous (2008-03-10 06:36:00)

In his speech in Selma, Obama said that he was a product of the march in Selma that his parents were involved in. Doesn't he know that his birthday is 5 years prior to that march in Selma. WOW!? Maybe someone should bring that to his attention.

Obama visits Boston (2007-03-06 07:29)

Senator Barack Obama visited fundraisers in Boston as his campaign appears to be gaining momentum.

Boston bundlers have already raised at least \$500,00 for the campaign and they are planning a big event next month at Boston University's Agganis Arena.

Even this fundraiser will recognize the importance though of small donors to the Obama campaign which is propelled by broad grassroots support.

Students will be asked to contribute \$23, young professionals \$230, and major donors \$2,300, the maximum.

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Boston (2007-03-27 07:11:00)

For tickets to the April 20th event in Boston for Barack Obama click the link below.

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/northeast420>

Hope to see you there!

Donor matching campaign on barackobama.com (2007-03-06 14:17)

The new fundraising campaign on barackobama.com is shown below.



The idea is for supporters to match another potential donor's donation.

The campaign is obviously a push to get more funds so they look good when campaign financing reports are publicly released in mid-April covering contributions up to the end of March.

Recognizing that many younger supporters may not have credit cards, the campaign has a mailing address for check contributions as long as you're at least 16 years old and not a political action committee or lobbyist.

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Momentum continues to build for Obama campaign (2007-03-07 17:17)

Barack Obama bounced back to a statistical tie with Hillary Clinton in a New Hampshire poll. Overall, the senator has been surging in polls although again it's a bit early. There could be wild swings that occur between now and election time.

However, Obama really swung the African American vote around by more than 50 percentage points.

Edwards site has temporary surge

Probably, due to the Ann Coulter remarks, former Senator John Edwards' website temporarily shot up past Obama's this week. However, today barackobama.com seems to have regained the top position that it has held since launching the social networking features.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Support for Obama from both sides of the river (2007-03-09 12:37)

On the one hand, Senator Barack Obama was endorsed by

Philip W. Johnston, the **Massachusetts Democratic Party** chairman who served in the Clinton administration and called Obama "the future of the party."

On the other, Louis Farrakhan, long-time head of the Nation of Islam (NOI), voiced his admiration of the candidate. Farrakhan's support won't likely help with mainstream voters, but obviously it could influence millions of members of the Nation of Islam. It might also have an impact on mainstream black voters. The NOI has had success in reaching out to the black mainstream as shown by the success of the "Million Man March."

"I like him very much. I like him, he has a fresh approach," Farrakhan said. "And I'm fearful, because there's a structure in our government that no matter who sits in the seat of power, there are forces that one has to contend with if one is able to attract the masses of their votes. Barack Obama is doing quite well."

"If avoiding me would help him to become president, I'd be glad to stay in the background, because of the taint that's on the minister," he said.



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Barack comes to Oakland (2007-03-09 21:06)

Barack Obama will visit Oakland on Mar. 17 to rally support for a California victory. With the primary moved forward to early February next year the state will play a major role in choosing the eventual nominee.

Northern California organizers hope to show that they do things big here also and will aim at the 20,000 mark set by the Austin rally.

When: Saturday March 17 – Gates open at 3:00 PM

Where: Oakland City Hall Plaza, One Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, California

How: The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP below to obtain your ticket.

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/s/oakland0317>

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Northern California unites for Barack Obama (video) (2007-03-11 07:31)

Northern California Unites Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sOvYAfKUxg>

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack makes big splash in NYC (2007-03-12 08:15)

Presidential candidate Barack Obama landed in Hillary Clinton country and hit the jackpot in New York City, his new El Dorado, where stars, students and other Obama fans opened up their pocketbooks.

Many donors for sure are playing it safe and supporting both hometown girl Hillary and Obama at the same time. But the Illinois senator was still able to leave the city with an estimated cool million in cash.

And interesting comment from conservative publisher Joe McQuaid of the influential Union Leader in New Hampshire about who's leading among Democrats in that state:

”

Q: Who's leading the Democrats right now in the polls in New Hampshire?

A: I don't keep track of polls. I think it's a crock. My editors and some of the reporters love them and keep putting them in the paper. I keep telling them, "Don't play 'em up because right now it's still a name-recognition thing." If I had to guess who's leading in the New Hampshire polls among the Democrats, I would guess Barack Obama would be on top.”



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Hope. Action. Change. (2007-03-12 10:59)

The Obama team is launching its first major community organizing campaign:

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The effort is well-supported with faq and a full-packet of supporting materials. The event will include a live streaming video of the senator visiting a house party in Iowa, a conference call and a free campaign DVD mailed to each house party across the nation.

Oakland event revving up

To sign up for Barack's visit to Oakland this Saturday, go to:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/s/oakland0317>

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O'Bama linked to Ireland (2007-03-12 16:06)



Ancestry.com on Obama's Irish ancestry: http://www.nypress.com/blogx/display_blog.cfm?bid=5549169

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500 Volunteers (2007-03-13 11:28)

When a call was given to help organize the Barack Obama visit to Oakland on Mar. 17 with two days notice, some 500 people showed up on a Sunday to volunteer. A powerful testimony to the candidate's drawing power.



Volunteers meet in the Bay Area to help with the Oakland rally for Barack Obama on Mar. 17 at the city hall.

RSVP to attend the Oakland rally at:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/s/oakland0317>

When: Saturday March 17 – Gates open at 3:00 PM

Where: Oakland City Hall Plaza, One Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, California

How: The event is free and open to the public

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Barack's Bay Area Street Team (2007-03-14 09:07)

Barack's Bay Area Street Team

(Organizing)

We need to let the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area know about Saturday's big event in downtown Oakland—and you are the key.

On the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the event we will be handing out flyers and putting up posters throughout the Bay Area.

Can you help for a couple of hours?

We will give you a route, and hand out supplies from our downtown Oakland HQ. We are staging at 10 am, 1 pm, and 530 pm—please RSVP and let us know when you'll be by!

We use the buddy system—bring a friend, or we can introduce you to one. There will be granola bars, water and good times! Hope to see you there.

Questions? Call Geoffrey at the Obama hotline! 510-444-4710, ext 306.

Time: Wednesday, March 14 at 10:00 AM

Duration:

Host: Geoffrey Borshof

Contact Phone: 510-444-4710

Location:

1904 Franklin Street, Floor 6 (Oakland, CA) 1904 Franklin Street, Floor 6
Oakland, CA 94612

View Map:

- Google Maps
- MapQuest
- Yahoo! Maps

Directions: We are on the corner of 19th and Franklin Street, only one block away from the 19th Street Oakland BART Station.

RSVP at: <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4jr5l>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oakland rally nears (2007-03-15 14:14)

Some encouraging new polls show that Barack Obama continues to surge forward sharply cutting the "lead" of Hillary Clinton in both the Time and Harris polls. The CNN poll, on the other hand, showed no significant change. Again, these polls are rather useless in showing who will win the primary but are more an indicator of the mood now when people are not very focused on the election.

The Time poll also showed Barack leading Giuliani while the latter edges Clinton. However statistically, both matches up were virtual ties, for example, Obama lead Giuliani by only one point.

Help with signs for Oakland rally

If you can help out this evening (Thursday) with rally signs for Barack's Oakland visit on Saturday, sign up at:
<http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4jv44>

OFFICIAL OBAMA RALLY SIGN-MAKING PARTY

(Organizing)

Join Bay Area supporters on Thursday afternoon in downtown San Francisco to make signs for the upcoming rally. Smile for the TV cameras and help spread the word!!

Please, come as close to 4:30 as possible, but you are MORE than welcome to join us anytime until 8:00 PM.

Time: Thursday, March 15 at 4:30 PM

Duration: 1 hour

Host: Michael Moffo

Location:

The Hive Ad Agency (San Francisco, CA) 639 Front Street, 1st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

View Map:

- Google Maps
- MapQuest
- Yahoo! Maps

Directions: Closest Intersection: Front Street and Pacific Avenue Closest BART Station: The Embarcadero Station

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- Yahoo! Maps

Directions: Closest Intersection: Front Street and Pacific Avenue Closest BART Station: The Embarcadero Station



Best hope for change (2007-03-16 10:16)

Barack Obama's rally is a day away and there is a nice article "All Eyes are on Obama in Oakland's melting pot" at the Inside the Bay Area website.

There's also an interesting article in the San Jose Mercury News on how Barack Obama is defying "racial expectations." An example of how Obama is defying such expectations might be found in this opinion piece from thenorthwest-ern.com based on Oshkosh, Wisconsin: Obama offers best hope for change.

From barackobama.com:

Barack's Bay Area Street Team (Organizing)

We need to let the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area know about Saturday's big event in downtown Oakland—and you are the key.

On the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the event we will be handing out flyers and putting up posters throughout the Bay Area.

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Directions: We are on the corner of 19th and Franklin Street, only one block away from the 19th Street Oakland BART Station.

RSVP at: <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4jr5z>

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Oakland loves Obama (2007-03-18 09:32)

A crowd estimated at 12,000 by campaign staff crowded into the Oakland city hall plaza to hear a rousing speech by Barack Obama on Saturday.

It was a rousing testament to his drawing power to see mostly everyday people coming in the thousands this early before the election. Most political rallies are populated by political aides, hacks, workers, etc. on the "advice" of their boss or by party diehards. This was the real deal.

Slide show and audio

<http://www.mercurynewsphoto.com/2007/03/18/obama-rally/>

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sfgate.com photo

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama as "Neo" or "Magic Negro?" (2007-03-19 09:35)

A fascinating article appeared in the New York Times exploring Barack Obama's growing up in Hawai'i and his angst over being the only black student at the prestigious Punahou School.

Tonight, Larry King, who just recovered from surgery, will interview Obama on CNN. I hope he digs more into the candidate's background and youth.

An off-the-mark piece in the Los Angeles Times asks whether Barack is the sociological "Magic Negro" a proposed archetype of non-threatening, non-"Mandingo" African who helps absolve the progressive white person's guilt feelings over slavery and segregation.

While I can't deny that some of this may be going on, I think rather that many see Obama as representing America's future. A real future where interracial "miscegenation" and multi-culturalism will be more prevalent than they are even today.

Such a clashing and blending of cultures has already existed in places like Hawai'i where Obama grew up. He has inherited a unique ability as a negotiator between races, cultures, ideologies, etc. that is readily apparent in his every action.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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prem (2007-03-19 19:26:00)

Here's why Obama would make a great President. .. check out this debate over Obama.. I am all for him.. lets support him

From 1984 to the Iraq War Timeline (2007-03-20 10:12)

Barack Obama did a fine job on Larry King last night. As Hillary Clinton and John McCain declined to show up, Barack was the star of the show.

One thing Larry brought up is the remake of a "1986" Apple ad recast as a pro-Obama video. This video is getting lots of playtime over at YouTube.com.

Click here for 1984 video.

Obama said his campaign did not know who created the video. The type of overlays require sophisticated equipment that personal computers and even most movie software does not have.

barackobama.com has new Iraq War timeline

The Obama campaign site now has a new timeline showing Barack's opposition to the war since 2002. The campaign is also asking for video, letters to the editor, and other support for the senator's de-escalation plan.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2009-12-13 13:09:33)
yoo.. informative

(2007-03-21 09:00)

Democracy for America (DFA) is having a straw poll that they will use to select their endorsement for next year's Democratic primary.

DFA is run by the old Deaniac group and has cells throughout the nation. The endorsement would likely muster significant support for a candidate. All Barack supporters should head on down to the DFA site and vote for Obama.

Campaigns clash over Barack's anti-war stance

Consultants from the Hillary and Barack campaigns collided on tv over Barack Obama's consistent position against the Iraq War. The Clinton camp used some quotes in which Obama admitted he did not have all the information available to congressional legislators in 2002. However, that apparently is a non-issue. No one is suggesting that the legislators were privy to any substantive information different than that presented to the public as the case for going to war.

Indeed, John Edwards, John Kerry and others have admitted that they were wrong in approving the war based on the evidence they had at the time.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video-maker unveiled (2007-03-21 20:55)

Arianna Huffington has managed to smoke out the maker of the "1984" anti-Hillary video.

Phillip de Vellis, an employee of Blue State Digital, admitted to creating the popular YouTube.com spoof.

Blue State Digital handles the techical side of Obama's website and one of the founders of the company is on leave while managing the new media division of the Obama campaign. However, de Vellis, who resigned from his job, stated that he made the video on his own and that neither his company or the Obama campaign knew anything about it.

An official Obama response also denied any knowledge of the making of the video. And the head of Blue State Digital released the following statement:

Our Statement On The 1984 Video

Statement from Thomas Gensemer, Managing Director, Blue State Digital

This afternoon, an employee at our firm, Phillip de Vellis, received a call from Arianna Huffington of "The Huffington Post" regarding the "1984" video currently circulating online. Initially, de Vellis refused to respond to her requests. He has since acknowledged to Blue State Digital that he was the creator of the video.

Pursuant to company policy regarding outside political work or commentary on behalf of our clients or otherwise, Mr. de Vellis has been terminated from Blue State Digital effective immediately.

Blue State Digital is under contract with the Obama Campaign for technology pursuits including software development and hosting. Additionally, one of our founding partners is on leave from the company to work directly for the campaign at headquarters.

However, Blue State Digital is not currently engaged in any relationship with the Obama Campaign for creative or non-technical services.

Mr. de Vellis created this video on his own time. It was done without the knowledge of management, and was in no way tied to his work at the firm or our formal engagement [on technology pursuits] with the Obama campaign.

I have spoken with David Plouffe, Sen. Obama's campaign manager, to inform him of this action and am appreciative of his understanding and ongoing support of our work.

We wish Mr. de Vellis well in his future endeavors.

http://www.bluestatedigital.com/2007/03/on_the_1984_video.html

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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SFO's rapid rise (2007-03-22 10:27)

I've prepared some documentation on the rapid organizing success of Sacramento for Obama (SFO), which has been able to produce its own website, t-shirts, media coverage, newsletter, etc. in only a few weeks. The file is in pdf format:

Documentation of Sacramento for Obama

Some observations on the success of SFO:

Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Get motivated and others will share your motivation and then the sparks fly.

People like to come to fun campaign events. There will be a time for grueling-type campaigning particularly in the last couple of weeks before voting starts in your area, but for now all campaigning should be fun while still being productive.

The media is interested in Barack Obama, so make every effort to contact them and cultivate relationships with them. Broadcast your group and events widely. Use local media, bulletin boards, craigslist, forums, meetings, calendars of events, etc. to publicize your stuff. Hold your meetings in public places rather than private homes. Wear your Obama t-shirts and campaign gear at these public meetings and events.

Constantly engage and update your group, and stay active. Staying active, keeps people engaged and hones your performance.

Yahoo Answers

Barack Obama has posted a question on Yahoo! Answers:

"How Can We Engage More People In the Democratic Process?".
Click here to answer.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obamas send message to Edwards family (2007-03-22 13:04)

John and Elizabeth Edwards today announced that Elizabeth was still positive for cancer although a slow-growing type without symptoms.

Barack and Michelle Obama sent a message in response to the news which can be found by clicking the image link below:

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Quarterly fundraising deadline approaches, Obama pastor rips NY Times (2007-03-23 07:58)

Barack Obama is rallying in Las Vegas today and will attend a forum on healthcare with other candidates in that city on Saturday.

On Sunday, the candidate will attend fundraisers in West Palm Beach as all candidates rush to fill their coffers before the March 31 fundraising deadline. Obama wants to show a sizeable war-chest, when campaign finance reports are made public in April.

Obama will at the Atlanta Hyatt on Monday where "several thousand" people are expected to dish out \$500 to \$2,300 a plate for the candidate. He will return to Atlanta at a later date for a free public rally.

Obama's Pastor fires back at NY Times

Here's the letter from Reverend Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. to Jodi Kantor of The New York Times:

March 11, 2007
Jodi Kantor

The New York Times
9 West 43rd Street
New York,
New York 10036-3959

Dear Jodi:

Thank you for engaging in one of the biggest misrepresentations of the truth I have ever seen in sixty-five years. You sat and shared with me for two hours. You told me you were doing a "Spiritual Biography" of Senator Barack Obama. For two hours, I shared with you how I thought he was the most principled individual in public service that I have ever met.

For two hours, I talked with you about how idealistic he was. For two hours I shared with you what a genuine human being he was. I told you how incredible he was as a man who was an African American in public service, and as a man who refused to announce his candidacy for President until Carol Moseley Braun indicated one way or the other whether or not she was going to run. I told you what a dreamer he was. I told you how idealistic he was. We talked about how refreshing it would be for someone who knew about Islam to be in the Oval Office. Your own question to me was, Didn't I think it would be incredible to have somebody in the Oval Office who not only knew about Muslims, but had living and breathing Muslims in his own family?

I told you how important it would be to have a man who not only knew the difference between Shiites and Sunnis prior to 9/11/01 in the Oval Office, but also how important it would be to have a man who knew what Sufism was; a man who understood that there were different branches of Judaism; a man who knew the difference between Hasidic Jews, Orthodox Jews, Conservative Jews and Reformed Jews; and a man who was a devout Christian, but who did not prejudice others because they believed something other than what he believed.

I talked about how rare it was to meet a man whose Christianity was not just "in word only."

I talked about Barack being a person who lived his faith and did not argue his faith. I talked about Barack as a person who did not draw doctrinal lines in the sand nor consign other people to hell if they did not believe what he believed.

Out of a two-hour conversation with you about Barack's spiritual journey and my protesting to you that I had not shaped him nor formed him, that I had not mentored him or made him the man he was, even though I would love to take that credit, you did not print any of that. When I told you, using one of your own Jewish stories from the Hebrew Bible as to how God asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?," that Barack was like that when I met him. Barack had it "in his hand." Barack had in his grasp a uniqueness in terms of his spiritual development that one is hard put to find in the 21st century, and you did not print that.

As I was just starting to say a moment ago, Jodi, out of two hours of conversation I spent approximately five to seven minutes on...

... Barack's taking advice from one of his trusted campaign people and deeming it unwise to make me the media spotlight on the day of his announcing his candidacy for the Presidency and what do you print?

You and your editor proceeded to present to the general public a snippet, a printed "sound byte" and a titillating and tantalizing article about his disinviting me to the Invocation on the day of his announcing his candidacy.

I have never been exposed to that kind of duplicitous behavior before, and I want to write you publicly to let you know that I do not approve of it and will not be party to any further smearing of the name, the reputation, the integrity or the character of perhaps this nation's first (and maybe even only) honest candidate offering himself for public service as the person to occupy the Oval Office.

Your editor is a sensationalist. For you to even mention that makes me doubt your credibility, and I am looking forward to see how you are going to butcher what else I had to say concerning Senator Obama's "Spiritual Biography."

Our Conference Minister, the Reverend Jane Fisler Hoffman, a white woman who belongs to a Black church that Hannity of "Hannity and Colmes" is trying to trash, set the record straight for you in terms of who I am and in terms of who we are as the church to which Barack has belonged for over twenty years.

The president of our denomination, the Reverend John Thomas, has offered to try to help you clarify in your confused head what Trinity Church is even though you spent the entire weekend with us setting me up to interview me for what turned out to be a smear of the Senator; and yet The New York Times continues to roll on making the truth what it wants to be the truth.

I do not remember reading in your article that Barack had apologized for listening to that bad information and bad advice. Did I miss it? Or did your editor cut it out? Either way, you do not have to worry about hearing anything else from me for you to edit or "spin" because you are more interested in journalism than in truth.

Forgive me for having a momentary lapse. I forgot that The New York Times was leading the bandwagon in trumpeting why it is we should have gone into an illegal war. The New York Times became George Bush and the Republican Party's national "blog." The New York Times played a role in the outing of Valerie Plame. I do not know why I thought The New York Times had actually repented and was going to exhibit a different kind of behavior. Maybe it was my faith in the Jewish Holy Day of Roshashana. Maybe it was my being caught up in the euphoria of the Season of Lent; but whatever it is or was, I was sadly mistaken. There is no repentance on the part of The New York Times. There is no integrity when it comes to The Times. You should do well with that paper, Jodi. You looked me straight in my face and told me a lie!

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Reverend Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. ,
Senior Pastor
Trinity United Church of Christ

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack wins DFA Poll, handicappers picking Obama and Giuliani (2007-03-23 11:01)

Candidate Barack Obama won the Dean-inspired Democracy for America poll with 28 percent of the vote compared to John Edwards 25 percent.

Barack Obama 28.1 %

John Edwards 24.6 %

Other 12.4 %

Dennis Kucinich 10.3 %

Hillary Clinton 8.7 %

Bill Richardson 7.6 %
Undecided 4.9 %
Joseph Biden 1.9 %
Christopher Dodd 0.5 %
Mike Gravel 0.3 %

Handicappers pick Obama and Giuliani

The Iowa Electronic Markets is a highly successful system that allows people to buy contracts on candidates or political parties as one would on a financial market, or as one would place bets on a sporting event.

The difference between this and a poll, is while the latter is basically a snapshot of the voting public's mood at a specific time, the electronic markets is based on speculations by "investors" on the eventual outcome.

The investors can be experts or anybody else interested in the race.

Here are the results at the time this blog was posted:

http://iemweb.biz.uiowa.edu/quotes/Nomination08_quotes.html

CLIN_NOM = Clinton Nomination, and so on.

Market Quotes: DConv08_VS
2008 Democratic Convention Market.

Quotes current as of **13:00:04 CST, Friday, March 23, 2007.**

Symbol Bid Ask Last Low High Average


CLIN_NOM 0.395 0.417 0.395 0.395 0.400 0.398
EDWA_NOM 0.054 0.079 0.055 0.055 0.055 0.055
OBAM_NOM 0.378 0.425 0.410 0.410 0.411 0.410
DROF_NOM 0.137 0.145 0.140 0.136 0.140 0.137
[| Prospectus](#) | [Price History](#) | [Graph](#) |

Market Quotes: RConv08_WTA
2008 Republican Convention Market.

Quotes current as of **13:00:04 CST, Friday, March 23, 2007. Symbol Bid Ask Last Low High Average**

GIUL_NOM 0.317 0.340 0.319 0.318 0.346 0.321
MCCA_NOM 0.181 0.199 0.180 0.180 0.180 0.180
ROMN_NOM 0.206 0.211 0.206 0.206 0.208 0.206
RROF_NOM 0.270 0.395 0.340 0.295 0.340 0.319
[| Prospectus](#) | [Price History](#) | [Graph](#) |

To find information on the accuracy of the Iowa Electronic Markets in past elections, read the pdf file below:

http://www.biz.uiowa.edu/iem/archive/BFNR_2000.pdf 

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More into Obama's youth (2007-03-24 08:44)

Barack Obama's childhood and teenage years continues to fascinate people, and is the subject of intense research by journalists, friends and foes.

The latest exploration of this subject: The not-so-simple story of Barack Obama's youth in the Chicago Tribune, delves into Obama's possible fuzzy memories of the past and has many new pictures in the accompanying slide show.

Photos from the Chicago Tribune

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Obama with mother Ann and grandfather Stanley. His half-sister Maya can be seen between Obama and his grandfather.

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Obama's half-sister Maya Soetoro-Ng teaching class at the Univ. of Hawai'i.

X

Obama is hugged by his grandmother Madelyn during high school graduation ceremonies. His grandfather is at right.

X

Ann Dunham with her second husband, Lolo Soetoro, Maya and Barack.

X

Barack Obama Sr. during his only visit to his son while growing up in Hawai'i.

X

Barack with sister Maya during high school graduation.

X

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Hillary targets MySpace (2007-03-24 19:55)

From the looks of her website, Hillary Clinton might be focusing on the slightly older MySpace crowd while conceding the younger Facebook and YouTube sites to Barack Obama.

The voting profile of MySpace users probably looks better and she's not so far behind on that site although Barack's MySpace page still leads her in friends by more than 10 to 1.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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PJ COBLE (2008-01-29 16:13:00)

OBAMA IS A BEAUTIFUL MAN WITH A BEAUTIFUL HERITAGE. HE IS INTELLIGENT, POLITICALLY SAVY, STRONG IN CHARACTER, AND MORALS, DECENT AND A VERY CAPABLE LEADER. IT IS JUST ASHAME THAT HIS MOTHER IS NOT ALIVE TO SEE THE WONDERFUL LEGACY THAT SHE LEFT. BARRAK OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Grassroots support vs. Machine money (2007-03-25 08:49)

Barack Obama refuses to accept funds from lobbyists and political action committees – two traditionally strong political contributors. The decision was part of Obama's campaign to bring a new politic to Washington.

Instead, Obama depends on grassroots action – volunteer time and work – to offset the loss in hard cash. To be sure, Barack has his share of wealthy donors, but these are mostly considered "outsiders." More likely most of Obama's funds will consist of a large number of relatively small donations similar to the pattern seen in the Howard Dean campaign.

For the Obama campaign, one of the big challenges will be to leverage the huge popular support of their candidate in ways other than simple cash donations. Many of the senator's supporters are too young to offer much monetary help, but they can work if provided enough bottled water.

Organizing the throngs of Obamaites is now mostly a do-it-yourself thing and will remain so until later in the campaign when the voters are thinking about their choices.

X at official barackobama.com website

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Fund not sun for Obama in South Florida (2007-03-25 16:57)

Candidate Barack Obama lamented his staff's refusal to allow him a round of golf or some beach time in South Florida during his fundraising visit there Sunday.

"Every time I come to Florida, I meet wonderful people and have a wonderful time, and it's always too short," he said. "I keep on thinking that I should be able to bring my golf clubs down and my swimming trunks and somehow my staff doesn't let me do that."

Obama is expected to attend a series of fundraising events in South Florida including some in swank private homes.

Barack leads Thompson who leads Hillary

A Rasmussen Reports telephone survey shows that potential Republican candidate Fred Thompson slightly ahead of Hillary Clinton by 44 to 43 percent (statistical tie).

However, Barack Obama clearly leads Thompson by 49 to 37 percent.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Big online support, but how effective? (2007-03-26 08:10)

Skeptics of Barack Obama's online popularity ask repeatedly whether the phenomenon will translate into real world votes.

It's one thing, they say, to get people to add the senator as a friend on MySpace and another to generate votes for a candidate.

To Barack's credit, not only can he draw the crowds online but he gets them to show up at his live events. Any politically-savvy person will tell you that's no small thing. Many rallies, even for high-profile offices like this, are packed with inside people – political aides, lobbyists, etc.

However, it's not difficult to see how a smaller group of experienced political backers can outwork a much larger mass of supporters consisting largely of people who've never been involved in politics before.

In a self-organizing scenario, you will have many disparate local groups of people spending time and energy reinventing the wheel just to get up and running.

Without a lot of self-starters and direction from the center they may be minimally engaged and active early on, while the "pros" are already doing focused work identifying supporters, persuading swing voters, setting up get-out-the-vote, etc.

When the novices do activate, the approach may be unfocused most of the time, and they may not hit many of the voters they should be targeting. It's like scoring only one of 10 jump shots, while your opponent may be sinking 50 percent.

However, at the same time one can't discount the euphoria of stardom. We've seen many times how a first-time candidate Hollywood celebrity can enter the political world and wipe out established campaign machines.

Old-fashioned canvassing and even paid tv campaigns are no match for the viral qualities of true stardom.

While no one doubts Obama's star qualities, there are still many people who don't know him. His supporter's challenge is presenting their candidate to these people.

One good thing about a mass of grassroots support is you can activate it many times, while you can generally spend any quantity of money only once. Obama supporters need to reactivate themselves repeatedly over the whole primary season.

They need to master the art of publicity – the conduit of their candidate's star appeal – but at the same time they must learn how to identify and focus on targeted voters particularly those who are undecided going into the latter weeks before election day.

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Vers de Barack (2007-03-26 10:42)

The first poem written below comes from Obama's high school in Hawai'i. The other two are from the Occidental Weekly, a publication of Occidental College in Los Angeles

OLD MAN I saw an old forgotten man
On an old, forgotten road
staggering and numb
pulls out forgotten dignity from under his flaking coat,
And walks a straight line along the crooked world.
POP

Sitting in his seat, a seat broad and broken
In, sprinkled with ashes,
Pop switches channels, takes another
Shot of Seagrams, neat, and asks
What to do with me, a green young man
Who fails to consider the
Flim and flam of the world, since
Things have been easy for me;
I stare hard at his face, a stare
That deflects off his brow;
I'm sure he's unaware of his
Dark, watery eyes, that
Glance in different directions,
And his slow, unwelcome twitches,
Fail to pass.
I listen, nod,
Listen, open, till I cling to his pale,
Beige T-shirt, yelling,
Yelling in his ears, that hang
With heavy lobes, but he's still telling
His joke, so I ask why
He's so unhappy, to which he replies...
But I don't care anymore, cause
He took too damn long, and from
Under my seat, I pull out the
Mirror I've been saving; I'm laughing,
Laughing loud, the blood rushing from his face

To mine, as he grows small,
A spot in my brain, something
That may be squeezed out, like a
Watermelon seed between
Two fingers.
Pop takes another shot, neat,
Points out the same amber
Stain on his shorts that I've got on mine, and
Makes me smell his smell, coming
From me; he switches channels, recites an old poem
He wrote before his mother died,
Stands, shouts, and asks
For a hug, as I shrink, my
Arms barely reaching around
His thick, oily neck, and his broad back; 'cause
I see my face, framed within
Pop's black-framed glasses
And know he's laughing too.

UNDERGROUND

Under water grottos, caverns
Filled with apes
That eat figs.
Stepping on the figs
That the apes
Eat, they crunch.
The apes howl, bare
Their fangs, dance,
Tumble in the
Rushing water,
Musty, wet pelts
Glistening in the blue.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack rumbles toward big community kickoff (2007-03-27 08:45)

Barack Obama rebounded a bit on the Iowa Electronic Markets leading Hillary by a slim two-point margin.

Market Quotes: DConv08
2008 Democratic Convention Market.

Quotes current as of **10:15:04 CST, Tuesday, March 27, 2007. Symbol Bid Ask Last Low High Average**

CLIN_NOM 0.425 0.432 0.425 0.425 0.425 0.425

EDWA_NOM 0.060 0.068 0.060 0.060 0.060 0.060

OBAM_NOM 0.384 0.413 0.428 0.427 0.428 0.427

DROF_NOM 0.121 0.125 0.121 0.121 0.121 0.121

In Atlanta, organizers said they broke a fundraising record of \$500,000 set by John Kerry when 600 supporters showed up for Barack at a downtown hotel.

Expectations for Obama's war-chest will be less than that of candidates like Hillary Clinton and John McCain as Barack's operation was still in the building stages for most of this quarter. It however appears to be going full swing now and the next reporting at the end of June will be a better measure of his fundraising prowess.

The big community kickoff will launch this Saturday and we may see the fruits of these efforts in polls released that cover voter opinions over this week.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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BET co-founder endorses Obama (2007-03-27 16:15)

Black Entertainment Television (BET) co-founder Sheila C. Johnson, one of America's black billionaires, endorsed Senator Barack Obama today and promised to host a fundraiser for the candidate in April.

Robert Johnson, her ex-husband and the other co-founder of BET, supports Hillary Clinton.

Obama says Bush using "social darwinism"

At a Communications Workers of America conference in Washington, Obama said that the Bush administration was practicing "social darwinism" preventing the prosperity of all Americans.

"It's a strategy that we've seen this administration pursue over the last six years, that basically says government has no role to play in making sure that America is prosperous for all people and not just some," he said.

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MoveOn.org may endorse presidential candidate (2007-03-28 08:57)

Barack Obama will attend a candidate's forum held today in Washington by the Building And Construction Trades department of the AFL-CIO.

Elsewhere, MoveOn.org announced may be endorsing a presidential candidate again this time around. Their last pick was Howard Dean, and the tea leaves would indicate that Barack Obama and John Edwards would be the favorites this time.

Given the importance of the Iraq War to MoveOn.org, one would think that Obama would be the frontrunner, however the group's leadership has said it will not endorse a single candidate if there is no strong consensus among its members.

The organization will conduct an online town meeting on April 10, after which it will survey its members and release the results on April 12.

Becoming a member is easy and free at their website ([click here](#)).

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Hawaii for Obama launches site (2007-03-28 16:23)

Hawai'i for Obama launched its official website at hawaiiforobama.org.

The site lists events for the big March 31 community kickoff of the Obama campaign.



(AP / CBS)



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-03-29 07:34)

Below is a copy of Barack Obama's letter to supporters asking for campaign donations.

The senator stresses that his campaign is more about people than dollars and therefore the fundraising goals are set in terms of numbers of contributors and the number of donations rather than in dollar amount in millions.

—

Dear Friend,

Here's how it usually works. As we approach March 31st, when campaigns have to file their quarterly fundraising reports, the press and pundits start to obsess over the chase for money.

They value dollars more than people, and bottom lines more than ideas.

Now, don't get me wrong. Like every campaign, this one needs the resources to compete.

But while others may set goals based on raising tens of millions of dollars, we're going to reveal two numbers that say more about what kind of campaign we're running:

* the number of people donating to the cause
the number of donations we've received from them

And we're not going to talk about the dollars raised until the reporting period is over.

It's simple: get more people involved, more deeply than ever before. Those are our goals for the end of the quarter, and for the rest of this campaign. Whether you've given before or this will be your first time, you can make a statement that people count.

I'm asking you to stand up and be counted – will you make a donation now?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/20070328?>

So why these two figures?

The number of people giving shows the wide breadth of support for a campaign that seeks a new kind of politics.

The number of donations reveals the depth of people's commitment, because so many people give small amounts again and again.

If we really hope to meet the challenges of our time, we have to change what our politics is about, and that means changing what campaigns are about – not just dollar amounts and million-dollar goals, but millions of people working for a cause bigger than themselves.

That's why we're not accepting contributions from Washington lobbyists or political action committees.

So who are our donors? See for yourself. Election law requires that we ask every donor to the campaign for their occupation and their employer. That information will be made public in the quarterly report filed on March 31st.

Just this week we've gotten donations from the following people:

- * a salesperson in Alabama
- a nurse in North Carolina
- a truck driver in Minnesota
- a firefighter/paramedic in Texas
- a homeless shelter director in Virginia
- a special education teacher in Florida
- a bartender in Colorado
- a minister in New York

The two most common occupations of our donors this week? "Student" and "Retired" – and we've got thousands in between.

Will you be the next person to be counted?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/20070328?>

There's serious work ahead for our next president, and the process of choosing him or her should not descend into an insider game of who can better manipulate the "conventional wisdom" in Washington.

We have an opportunity to use this fundraising deadline to turn the story of money and politics on its head.

You can show the pundits covering this presidential race that a grassroots movement for change can trump all the money and influence in Washington.

Give them something to talk about – be counted now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/20070328?>

For six years we've had a president out of touch, on the wrong track, and increasingly unwilling to even pretend to care about the concerns of ordinary Americans.

The process of choosing our next one should focus on mobilizing and energizing the people.

As we approach this fundraising deadline on March 31st, you have an opportunity to send a message by participating in a different kind of fundraising drive:

In a democracy, it's the people that count.

Thank you,

Barack Obama



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Spanish version of "The Audacity of Hope" in works (2007-03-29 15:22)

Barack Obama's campaign decision to highlight the depth of his support rather than the dollar figure was a smart one.

It's likely to appeal to his specific base of supporters and to attract many of the netroots crowd and progressives in general who are still undecided. And its not a move that his opponents are likely to imitate for two good reasons:

1. Barack's major opponents are mainly getting support from traditional sources including lobbyists and political action committees. Thus, they're not likely to match Obama's wide donor support.
2. It's difficult to "crunch" these numbers without getting caught because of campaign finance reporting.

The Audacity of Hope coming out in Spanish

Senator Obama's best-selling book *The Audacity of Hope* is scheduled to be released in a Spanish language version this June. "*La Audacia de la Esperanza*" will be released by Vintage Espanol, an arm of Random Books, with an initial printing of 50,000 copies.

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Vintage Espanol



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Jesse Jackson endorses Barack Obama (2007-03-29 17:19)

Jesse Jackson gave the Obama campaign a big boost in its efforts to woo African American voters when he endorsed the senator in a telephone interview with the Associated Press on Thursday.

The media has frequently asked whether Barack Obama is "black enough" and whether he has any major support among African Americans, a very important voting segment in Democratic primary elections.

Jackson himself won South Carolina when he ran for the Democratic nomination in 1988 and won a total of 16 primaries in his two presidential bids.

In response to Jackson's endorsement Obama said: "This campaign has been about giving hope since Day One and I am proud to have the support of my friend Jesse Jackson. It is because people like Jesse ran that I have this opportunity to run for president today."



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Putting a dollar amount behind a face (2007-03-30 08:40)

The National Journal blog has some predictions on how much money each of the major candidates will raise this quarter:

Sen. Hillary Clinton will raise between \$23M and \$30M.

Sen. John McCain will raise between \$18M and \$22M.

Sen. Barack Obama will raise between \$18M and \$24M.

Ex-MA Gov. Mitt Romney will raise between \$19M and \$21M. ** Romney is not raising general election money yet.

Ex-Sen. John Edwards will raise between \$13M and \$17M.

Ex-NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani will raise between \$12M and \$15M.

—

These estimates include transfers from other accounts, which would mean if correct that Obama would have outraised Clinton this quarter despite being in full swing only since Feb. 10.

This is because Hillary will have transferred about \$11 million from her senatorial account to her presidential campaign. In contrast, Obama had only about a half million left in his old senatorial account.



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Campaigns release lists of black bundlers (2007-03-30 11:26)

Both the Obama and Clinton teams released a list of New York City African American fundraisers (bundlers) supporting their campaigns.

An interesting difference in each list is that Clinton's contains many older celebrity names like Robert Johnson (BET Entertainment), Quincy Jones (Quincy Jones/David Salzman Entertainment) and Berry Gordy Jr. (founder of Motown Records), while Obama's has younger stars like record executives L.A. Reid (Hitco Music Publishing) and Andre Harrell (Uptown Records, Motown Records, movie producer).

Obama's partial list of NYC African American bundlers: Brian Mathis (Provident Group), Jeh Johnson, L.A. Reid, Frank Cooper, Andre Harrell, Derek Johnson, Ray McGuire, Tracy Maitland, Judy Byrd Blaylock, Ron Blaylock, Earl Graves (publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine), Ann Fudge, Robert Smith, Vivienne LaBorde, Vaughn Willaims, Gayle Atkins, Charles Atkins, Gordon Davis, John Rhea, Wendy Credle, Alexis McGill, Rhonda Medina, Maxim Thorne, Jason Wright, Marc Mitchell.

Clinton's list: Clarence and Jackie Avant, Dana Wade Smith, Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn, Binta Niambi Brown, Pamela Hayes, Tyson Pratcher, Carl McCall, Bob Johnson, Quincy Jones, Berry Gordy Jr. and Pam Pickens.



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Barack meets Iowa townspeople (2007-03-31 19:04)

Click the link below to watch an extraordinary video of Barack Obama meeting with townspeople in a public library in Iowa.

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1.4 April

The importance of the African American vote (2007-04-01 10:21)

African American votes are important in any Democratic presidential primary but one could say they are especially important for Barack Obama as he is probably expected to do well among these voters.

I happen to be one of those that believe African American voters allowed Bill Clinton to win the 1992 primary despite coming in near the bottom in Iowa and losing, despite placing a close second, in New Hampshire.

The African American vote gave Clinton the edge in many states particularly in the South.

Jesse Jackson won 11 primaries in his second bid including South Carolina despite the fact that he was never competitive money-wise and was never taken seriously by the majority of white voters. His success was largely due to the power of African American voters in many key Democratic states where they effectively form a swing vote.

While it is important to do well in early states like Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina, Obama must campaign hard also in the African American community. In one of the early states, South Carolina, black votes are often key to winning for Democrats.

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Daniel (2007-04-03 01:32:00)

People will vote their respect person to be chairman. People play an important role in that time. My old friend asked me about how to vote on EbonyFriends.com

Analyzing the Community Kickoff (2007-04-01 14:10)

More than 83,000 people donated to the Barack Obama campaign and the community kickoff event helped raise many of these donations.

However, behind the event there was also another plan – to begin organizing Obama's many online supporters into a powerful offline vote-winning force.

Trying to avoid the mistakes of the Howard Dean and Ned Lamont campaigns, the Obama team arranged the nation-wide house parties with the idea of introducing local online supporters to each other face-to-face, out of the "Matrix" if you will.

Supporters were urged by the campaign to begin planning activities designed to reach offline voters.

House party organizers were given a package of materials with information of winning supporters, do's and don't's of fundraising and other important organizing information.

An organized ground force will be important in the primary election but of even greater necessity should Obama win the nomination and face the task of winning independent voters.

One hurdle the campaign faces is keeping enthusiasm high over so many months before the first polls in January of next year.

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Why some perceive Obama as "winner" in fundraising race (2007-04-02 08:47)

Hillary breaks fundraising records, the headlines read. However, if you scan the political blogs, you'll find many who believe that Barack really came out on top in this "invisible primary."

The main reason for this is that most of the big donors tend to reach maximum contribution levels in the first quarter. Basically they cannot legally give any more money to their respective campaigns.

Therefore, from now on, it's mostly the small donors on "installment" plans that will continue infusing campaigns with cash. And the Obama campaign has shown that it easily has the greatest number of these small donors, and also a unique ability to attract previously unengaged people who've never donated before.

Another big factor is that Hillary has been collecting funds both for the primary, and in case she wins, the general election. Obama, however, only started collecting for the general election lately after receiving a Federal Elections Committee special ruling that will allow him to still qualify for public funding.

Thus, Obama's war-chest has much less of this general election money, and more money that can be spent on the primary.

Although the Obama campaign hasn't released an official statement yet, reliable sources close to the campaign say that at least \$20 million was raised.

What isn't known is how much each campaign has spent already, and how much they have left over to spend near election time when television ad campaigns start up and it's time to expand the number of paid staff workers.

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Obama denies softening stance on Iraq (2007-04-02 15:43)

Senator Barack Obama denied claims that he has wavered in his position on Iraq as claimed by his presidential opponents and on various political blogs.

Obama said neither he nor the majority of Congress were interested in cutting funds for troops in the field but that they would "keep on ratcheting up the pressure to try to make the President see we're on the wrong course and have him respond to Congress and the American people."

The senator's redeployment calls for pulling out all combat troops by March of next year.

Fundraising totals to be announced Wednesday

According to news reports, the Obama campaign will unveil information on its first quarter fundraising this Wednesday.

The delay may have been caused by the large number of donations received during the community kickoff event that occurred on the last day of fundraising. Many youthful and other Obama supporters, lacking credit cards, may have contributed by check further delaying the tally.

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Daniel (2007-04-03 01:45:00)

People will vote their respect person to be chairman. So people play an important role in that time. I met a friend who is a profession told me how to vote in United States on EbonyFriends.com

How independent expenditures effect the race (2007-04-03 09:08)

Independent expenditures are ads or other "communications" asking people to vote or not to vote for a specific candidate or party.

These expenditures can include everything from flyers to television ads but they differ from campaign contributions in that they are made without authorization or coordination of any official campaign.

So if a person independently decides to print window signs urging people to vote for Barack Obama without authorization from the campaign, it counts as an independent expenditure.

If a person makes \$250 or more in independent expenditures a year, they must file a statement with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC). Any group that raises or spends more than \$1,000 in a calendar year must register as an independent committee and file financial statements with the FEC.

Soft money

Big money donors get around campaign contribution limits by either spending their own money independently or by contributing to independent committees.

There is a limit to the amount they can contribute to committees, but not to how much they can spend on their own. All they have to do is place a disclaimer on the communication or ad stating that it was not authorized by the official candidate's campaign and listing some contact information (street address, telephone number or website URL).

Of course, grassroots supporters and organizations can also make independent expenditures if they have reached their donation limits. Even if they haven't reached their limits but are unable to make monetary donations to the campaign, they can independently use their own printers, paper and other materials to print flyers, signs, buttons, etc.

Independent committees like the well-known "Swift Boat" committee that targeted John Kerry's campaign can often have a significant impact on the election outcome.

MoveOn.org and Democracy for America are examples of more progressive independent multi-candidate committees.

Smaller grassroots organizations can also tap into this money by soliticing local donors who have reached their limits with the official campaign but are still looking to do more.

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MyPolicy (2007-04-03 15:07)

BarackObama.com has released a brilliant new feature known as MyPolicy that allows members to register their views on Obama policy by text, voice message or video.

After submitting ideas, members will debate and collaborate to outline a new direction.

The best ideas from the process will be incorporated by Obama in his overall campaign policy.

Speculation runs wild over Obama silence

Observers are speculating that the Obama campaign is keeping silent about its fundraising totals to draw extra attention to the candidate.

Estimates from \$20 million to \$40 million are circulating through the media.

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Across our country, everyday people like you have experiences and ideas that haven't previously been heard. This is your chance to speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

(☐) Submit your idea

(☐) Tell your story

(☐) Upload your video

(☐) Record a message

On:

[Healthcare.....]

Go

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Live feeds show Obama's community organizing skills (2007-04-04 07:34)

I'm really enjoying these live feeds of Barack Obama meeting with small groups of people to discuss issues and policy. You can really see his years of community organizing experience in these live, unedited broadcasts.

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Anonymous (2009-12-12 17:14:15)
now I stay in touch!

Obama camp raises \$25 million (2007-04-04 08:38)

Barack Obama announced that his campaign had raised \$25 million in the first quarter with more than \$23 million available for the primary.

The money came from more than 100,000 donations.

This is very good news indeed, but as Obama states in his note below, votes will still come only one person at a time. —forwarded—

Dear Friend,

Ten weeks ago, on an icy day in Springfield, we launched an audacious campaign to change our politics and lift our country.

Today, I have some exciting news to share about the phenomenal progress we've made. And I wanted you to hear it first.

I'm proud to tell you that, after the first quarter of the campaign, we've exceeded all of our hopes and expectations. In less than three months, a staggering 100,000 Americans have contributed to our cause – tens of thousands more than the number reported by any other campaign. That's on top of the hundreds of thousands who have attended rallies, started groups and shared their ideas and energy.

It's been a truly historic response – a measure of just how hungry people are to turn the page on this era of small and destructive politics and repair our American community.

And because of that extraordinary base of support, we were able to raise an astonishing \$25 million – \$23.5 million of which can be used to help us in the upcoming primary contests.

What makes this achievement even more noteworthy is that we did it without taking any money from PACs or federal lobbyists. Instead, we're counting on you; on folks across America who want to take their country back and steer us to a better course.

You've sent an unmistakable message to the political establishment in Washington about the power and seriousness of our challenge.

But for all the impressive numbers by which pundits will judge this campaign, we know that every step of our progress happens one person at a time.

One person sharing their story of why they decided to get involved in the political process, one volunteer deciding to have a conversation about the campaign with their neighbor, one donor owning a piece of this campaign for as little as \$5.

I've been struck by how personal this campaign experience has been for so many of you.

You heard last week from Rashed, a veteran and father who made his first-ever donation to a political campaign because of his hopes for his daughter. This campaign is the story of hundreds of thousands of people like him – people participating because they believe that politics can mean something again.

We've put together a small presentation about all we've accomplished together so far, and links to a few of the personal stories from people who donated to the campaign or hosted a community get-together this past weekend.

You can see it here:

my.barackobama.com/wherewestand

I want to thank you for all that you have done so far. This milestone for our campaign proves something I learned as a community organizer long ago: that together a whole lot of ordinary people can achieve something extraordinary.

And we're only just getting started.

Thank you,

Barack Obama

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Breaking down the numbers (2007-04-04 11:00)

With Barack

Obama's numbers in, we can analyze the data and see who appears in better shape money-wise.

Here are some of the more important numbers released by the Obama campaign today:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/eqwrap/>

Over 100,000 Donors

Over \$25,000,000 Raised

Over \$23,500,000 for the Primary

Over \$50,000 Online Donors

Over \$6,900,000 Raised Online

Over 4,000 My.BarackObama.com Groups

Over 9,000 My.BarackObama.com Blogs

Over 50,000 My.BarackObama.com Members

The first thing we notice is that Obama has about twice as many donors as Clinton. Again, this is a positive thing as it likely indicates that Obama has a much larger base of small donors. Probably also having twice as many online donors indicates the same thing.

Obama averaged about \$250 per donor, and \$138 per online donor. Clinton averaged \$520 and \$160 respectively.

Many small donors will likely contribute again before the primary dates as they will did not max out this time around.

There is even a recurring donations feature at barackobama.com that allows one to make automatic monthly donations at a set amount from one's credit card.

Lower the expected overall numbers

Another thing we notice about this quarter's fundraising reports, is that they came in lower than expert expectations. According to the forecasts, the Democratic frontrunners would have raised between \$40 and \$50 million by this time, but they are at about half that amount.

This might be interpreted as meaning that there is limited interest in the presidential race, but polls show exactly the opposite.

Generally the predictions for first quarter earnings are based on known databases of regular donors. Is it possible that many of these regular donors are still sitting on the sidelines unsure of who to support?

If we look at this from the angle of endorsements, it does seem that many elected officials are still pondering over which side to take in this race.

Will Barack Obama's very good numbers help some break toward his campaign? Or will some who donated only to Hillary this time, now donate to Obama to cover their backsides since Hillary is no longer heir-apparent.

It may be that the second quarter reports will be even more important since it may reveal where all those missing donors have gone.

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Can a Obama win in Iowa and New Hampshire? (2007-04-05 08:24)

Iowa and New Hampshire can be daunting states for a progressive candidate, although lately New Hampshire has become a more progressive-friendly state.

Barack Obama, rightly or wrongly, may be considered the most progressive of the front-running Democrats. And if you haven't noticed he's also black. Iowa and New Hampshire are overwhelmingly white.

Black and other minority candidates tend to do better with white voters in regions that have larger minority and immigrant populations, that are well-integrated and with large numbers of urban and progressive voters.

Iowa and New Hampshire don't fit well into any of those categories, although again New Hampshire has become increasingly more progressive.

You might hear some minorities comment that they would feel more comfortable campaigning in southern states than in Iowa and New Hampshire. Because there at least there is familiarity. Yes, there are rednecks who would never consider a non-white candidate, but there also those who have no problem with blacks. Poor whites in the South have often lived side-by-side or at least in adjoining neighborhoods with blacks.

One of the reasons Bill Clinton was so popular with blacks is his empathy with the community as he was raised in Arkansas.

In Iowa and New Hampshire, a minority candidate might feel like they were on the Moon.

Part of Obama's challenge is familiarizing himself with the local voters and taking away some of the strangeness that his skin color presents.

He's doing that now by practically living in Iowa. By January of next year, Obama will want to be as familiar as the guy next door to most Iowans.

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Clinton and McCain "burning" up cash (2007-04-06 08:29)

The Wall Street Journal's *Washington Wire* reports both Hillary Clinton and John McCain are spending heavily with the first polls still more than nine months away.

Clinton is hiring political consultants left and right, according to the report, in an attempt to deny them to other candidates.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that their sources confirm that Clinton has less money in her campaign available for the primary than her opponent Barack Obama.

Obama popular with Muslim voters

Despite criticism over supposedly cuddling up with the Israel lobby, Barack Obama is the most popular candidate according to an ongoing poll by the Muslim Observer.

The *Muslims for Barack Obama* website states: "He's not just a change from George W. Bush, he's a change from the emerging crop of Democratic presidential nominees, all of whom are still equivocating on the war in Iraq. Obama is the only candidate who was on the correct side from the beginning, and unlike most politicians, understands our concerns because of his unique background. Through this group, we hope to work Muslim Democrats to ensure Obama gets the party nomination, and then work hard to get out the vote in key districts throughout America."

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Obama reveals plan to help homeless veterans (2007-04-06 15:42)

Senator Barack Obama unveiled a plan to keep veterans from having to live on the streets after returning to civilian life.

"Veterans are far more likely to be homeless than non-veterans and part of it is because we're not providing services to them as they transition out of the service," Obama said before a campaign rally. "Part of it is because there is just not enough affordable housing."

Obama's plan would establish grants and vouchers for those who build affordable housing for veterans.

The Veteran's Administration estimates there may be 200,000 homeless veterans with twice that number being homeless throughout the course of the year.

Money talks

Proof that money talks might be found in Mitt Romney leapfrogging to a tie for first place in New Hampshire with John McCain.

In the Obama campaign, nearly \$500,000 was raised online the day after announcing the impressive \$25 million haul for the first quarter. Money attracts money.

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Barack's sustainability or Clinton's overrated database? (2007-04-06 19:14)

The Clinton campaign responded to reports of outstanding fundraising efforts by the Obama camp stating that the latter would not be able to sustain its efforts throughout the campaign.

No detailed reasoning was given for this opinion. My own impression given Obama's larger army of donors is that he has more reasons to be optimistic about future fundraising.

A lot of hoopla was made over Hillary's database of some 250,000 "supporters."

However, one has to wonder how many of these people in the database are actually supporting Hillary. Past contributions especially in general elections certainly is not a guarantee of support for the upcoming primary season.

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Barack on Healthcare (2007-04-08 07:19)

Although Barack Obama is still hammering out the specifics of his universal health plan through dialogue with the people, there are still some things that can be gleaned from his public meetings and speeches.

Barack believes in a single payer system but practically is hesitant to support one.

A single payer system may have been easier to implement back when only one in 10 people were insured rather than the six in seven covered today. The health insurance industry is huge, owns hundreds of billions in assets and employs many people.

Dismantling in one stroke could cause major upheaval.

However, Obama doesn't seem to support the current employer-based system as it stands now either. He appears to favor, based on some of his speeches and comments, something similar to Ron Wyden's healthcare plan but with less out-of-pocket expenses.

Wyden's Healthy Americans Act would establish state-based Health Help Agencies allowing the individual rather than the employer to choose private health plans. Here is some info from Wyden's official site:

"Under The Healthy Americans Act individuals will choose from a variety of plans offered in their state providing coverage similar to what is currently available to Members of Congress. State-based Health Help Agencies (HHAs) will guide individuals through the enrollment process. HHAs will provide unbiased information about the state's competing private health plans that will in turn empower individuals—rather than their employers—to choose the best private plans for them and their families. HHAs also will connect individuals and families with sliding scale premium reduction to ensure everyone can afford care. Most individuals and families will qualify for health care tax deductions.

"Also under the Healthy Americans Act, subscribers will not be charged co-pays for preventive services or chronic disease management. Insurers will be able to offer discounts and other incentives based on participation in wellness programs such as nutrition counseling, tobacco cessation and exercise. Primary care physicians will be reimbursed for investing time in chronic disease management and prevention. And with Health Help Agencies publishing consumer-oriented information on every plan's success in prevention and disease management, insurance companies will ultimately be competing to keep Americans healthy."

According to Wyden, his plan would be fully-paid by restructuring the \$2.2 trillion currently spent on healthcare.

Obama has also mentioned that bringing the medical transaction system online could save up to \$600 million a year, money which could be used to help cover those who cannot afford to pay for their coverage. He has said that money can also be saved by emphasizing prevention more and this includes preventive care for the people now uninsured who often make expensive emergency care visits.

Refreshingly, he has not ruled out new taxes to fund his universal healthcare plan. After all, you have to pay for the thing somehow. Republicans somehow think its better to spend using interest-bearing loans rather than upfront money (taxes). Guess who eventually pays for these loans and interest?

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Anonymous (2009-05-06 16:18:00)

Obama you have turned this Country into a pile of crap. It is not my job to pay health care for all the illegals in this Country. You may have in your mind you are doing good but you are not at all. GM is going to layoff 21,000 people because you. They need to restructure and down size. What ever, Follow the news Obama you wont be there in 4 years and then somebody will have to clean up all this crap you think is just. You are wrong. Michael Savage says it best. Look him up, He speaks for America

RNC worried about Obama (2007-04-09 08:52)

In a powerful testament to the fear Barack Obama is generating in Republican circles, the Republican National Committee will release today a list of "Obama's Top Ten Fabrications."

The list of so-called "fabrications" is just a re-hashing of old press reports which only prove the silliness of any Obama "honeymoon" with the media.

Tonight, Barack will appear as a guest along with Halle Berry on the David Letterman show.

MoveOn.org Townhall Meeting

MoveOn.org will hold its virtual townhall meeting focused on the Iraq War on Tuesday (tomorrow).

This meeting will probably be the most important in helping MoveOn.org in deciding on a presidential endorsement given the organization's focus on ending the Iraq War.

MoveOn.org will survey members after the meeting and the results of the survey will be used in making endorsement decisions. To sign up, visit their website:

<http://moveon.org/>

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Barack to skip Fox debate (2007-04-09 16:47)

Senator Barack Obama will skip the Fox News Channel and Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) presidential debate in Detroit it was announced today.

Instead Obama will attend the debate sponsored by the CBC and CNN in January.

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CNN seemed like a more appropriate host,” Obama spokesman Bill Burton said.

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Barack not in it for second (2007-04-10 07:43)

Barack Obama told David Letterman "No, you don't run for second," when asked if he would like to be Hillary Clinton's vice-president. The candidate did seem to acknowledge that an Obama-Clinton ticket though would be "powerful." He also said that his family was handling the demands of the campaign well but joked that:

"I'm not getting back to Chicago very often. ... My wife is starting to refer to me as her first husband. It's a little disturbing."

In addition to appearing on the Letterman show, Obama continued his fundraising exploits in New York City attending three big money events.

Tonight, Barack, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards will attend a virtual townhall meeting conducted by MoveOn.org and focused on the Iraq War.

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Barack Obama surges to first in South Carolina (2007-04-10 17:10)

Senator Barack Obama rocketed into first place according to an Insider Advantage poll with 34 percent of those polled favoring him. Hillary Clinton was second with 20 percent and John Edwards, a South Carolina native, was at 17 percent. The telephone poll surveyed 500 registered Democratic voters from April 6-8.

South Carolina is one of four early primary states, the others being Iowa, Nevada and New Hampshire.

However in a few weeks, Louisiana may have the earliest test of all if it conducts a "beauty contest" during its Nov. 14 poll this year.

The non-binding poll may be approved during a legislative session this month. In theory, if approved the delegates could decide to follow these results rather than those of the official primary in February 2008. The Louisiana test results could effect what happens in the other four early primary states.

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MoveOn.org surveys members on candidates (2007-04-10 22:20)

The MoveOn.org town hall meeting is completed and you can vote for the best candidate to lead the country out of the Iraq War at the following URL:

<http://pol.moveon.org/townhall/iraq/emailme.html>

You can find videos and transcripts of all the candidates (that participated) on the MoveOn.org website.



Sen. Barack Obama

[Full Segment](#) | [Opening Statement](#) | [Question 1](#) | [Question 2](#) | [Closing Statement](#) | [Transcript](#)

MoveOn Member Question:

The Bush administration's obstinate refusal to diplomatically engage parties such as Syria and Iran has clearly done nothing but harm the United States' interests in the Middle East. How would you include these countries in the effort toward establishing a stable, responsible, and non-hostile government in Iraq?

—Alex Landry, Reference Librarian, Alexandria, VA



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Harvard professors endorse Barack Obama (2007-04-11 08:00)

Three prominent Harvard professors endorsed Barack Obama's candidacy at a Kennedy School of Government event last night.

"Barack Obama is the only candidate who can give us 21st-century solutions to 21st-century threats," Samantha Power, Lindh professor of practice of global leadership and public policy said.

U.S. Senator Barack Obama may be the youngest major contender vying for the Democratic presidential nomination, but three prominent Harvard faculty members said yesterday that the 45-year old's life experiences, particularly his time overseas, give him an edge over his older competitors.

"Barack Obama is the only candidate who can give us 21st-century solutions to 21st-century threats," foreign policy scholar Samantha Power said at an event last night for Obama. "One cannot overstate how important it is to have someone in office who has lived abroad and can see the United States from the inside out and from the outside in." Power took a leave of absence from KSG last year to advise the Obama campaign on foreign policy.

"The thing that struck you about Barack back then was that he seemed very different," Professor of Law Kenneth W. Mack said. "He seemed like he was a little bit older, a littler bit wiser, and a little bit better read in the ways of the world."

Kennedy School Lecturer in Public Policy Marshall L. Ganz said "Obama's life experience in particular equips him to understand the kinds of ways in which we need to bring a very diverse set of people and interests together around a fundamental group of values—compassion, generosity and tolerance."

Obama rakes in \$700,000 to \$1 million in NYC

Barack raised an estimated \$700,000 to \$1 million in Hillary Clinton's home turf according to NYC bundlers yesterday. One source said that future NYC fundraisers are already in the works and that a Washington event has tripled its attendance after Obama announced his fundraising success.

It does seem that many people who were on the sidelines before are contributing to the campaign now. Also, many supporters of other candidates may be hedging their bets by throwing some money in Obama's direction.

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Bloomberg/LA Times Poll shows Obama does best against Reps (2007-04-11 16:47)

A new Bloomberg/Los Angeles Times poll conducted April 5-9 shows Barack Obama leading the pack in head-to-head matches.

"In head-to-head match-ups, the Democratic candidates generally do better, except against Giuliani, whose lead over Clinton and Edwards is within the poll's margin of error.

"Clinton is 6 points behind Giuliani, and Obama narrowly leads Giuliani by 4 points. Obama is also ahead of McCain by 8 points and Romney by 19 points, compared with Clinton's 3-point lead over McCain and 7-point advantage over Romney."

Obama says its time to pressure Bush

A new Associated Press-Ipsos poll indicates that a majority of Americans believed going to war in Iraq was a mistake.

In an interview with David Gregory on MSNBC's Hardball, Obama said it was "ratchet up the pressure" on the Bush administration to set a timetable for Iraq troop withdrawal.



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Barack Obama wins MoveOn survey (2007-04-12 09:18)

Barack Obama won the MoveOn poll with results quite similar to those of the Democracy for American straw poll:

Obama - 27.9 percent

Edwards 24.7 percent

Kucinich - 17.2 percent

Richardson - 12.3 percent

Clinton - 10.7 percent

Biden - 6.2 percent

Dodd - 1.1 percent

MoveOn members tend to be a bit "left" of the ordinary Democrat, and remember this poll only surveys people online. It could be important in the future, if MoveOn decides to endorse one or more of the candidates.

Sister launches Hawaiian support

Barack's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng sent an email to 800 potential supporters in Hawai'i last night extolling her brother's virtues.

The email said that Obama was "sharp, loving, and makes a mean chili."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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barackobama.com launches Answer Center (2007-04-13 12:40)

The barackobama.com website unleashed a new Answer Center with the apparent aim of allowing supporters to familiarize themselves with their candidate's positions and the inner workings of the campaign.

The new page can be found at:

http://answercenter.barackobama.com/cgi-bin/barackobama.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php

There is also a blog to help members with using the Answer Center.

The ability of supporters to handle questions fielded to them about their candidate is an important part of the campaign's efforts to persuade voters.

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20,000 at Atlanta rally for Barack Obama (2007-04-14 10:18)

Another huge crowd, estimated at 20,000, has turned out for Barack Obama at his rally in Atlanta, Georgia today. The South may turn out as important for Obama as it was for Clinton in his first presidential primary. Before coming to Georgia, Barack made campaign stops in South Carolina and North Carolina.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack still drawing waves of people (2007-04-15 11:08)

Despite questions over his sustainability and the substance of his policy, Barack still holds a remarkable spell over the people.

He drew about 20,000 people to his Atlanta rally despite that fact that a major storm system was headed that way.

Obviously many, many people are still convinced Obama is the real thing – the right person for our times.

He has been scrutinized for elements of his name, "Hussein" and "Obama" which they note sounds like Osama (and also "Yo Mama"). The press has explored his cigarette smoking habit, his blackness or lack thereof, and the church he attends.

I know practically nothing about the youth of the other candidates, but I feel now as I have detailed knowledge of Obama's growing up in Hawai'i after reading so many news reports. Every detail of his youth that he mentions in

his book "Dreams of My Father" appear to have been checked or are being checked by meticulous reporters for consistency.

All the fine-toothed combing of Obama's life and words though seems not to have dented his mass grassroots appeal. Turning that appeal into votes will require focused work by his supporters.

Handing out Obama leaflets in front of stores where 80 percent of the customers are Republicans won't help because Republicans can't vote in a Democrat primary. Polls tell us that Obama appeals to young people, African Americans, Iraq War opponents, etc. Those are the people supporters should target in progressive-leaning neighborhoods or homes.

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Obama campaign files quarterly report (2007-04-15 19:59)

The official campaign finance reports are in and as expected Barack Obama outraised his opponents in primary money.

Obama raised \$24.8 million to Hillary Clinton's \$19 million in the first three months of 2007. However, Hillary also transferred \$10 million from her senate account to her presidential campaign.

The Obama campaign had expenditures and debts of \$6.79 million while Hillary expended \$6.6 million. Overall, Hillary had \$24 million cash on hand left in her treasury for the primary election compared to Obama's 19 million.

John Edwards raised \$13 million for the primary and reporting \$9.8 million in the bank at the end of the quarter.

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Don Stewart (2007-08-17 13:12:00)

I believe Senator Obama isn't making enough of a distinction between himself and Hillary on subjects that really matter.

For instance, I believe that Hillary has made a very bad decision to support the continuation of lobbyist's gifts to congress. Her argument is that these gifts haven't in the past and won't in the future influence her positions on issues. What Obama's campaign should point out is the irrelevance of this argument. It's not the influence on HER votes that we citizens are worried about but the influence on the hundreds of present and future Congressmen's votes that are the primary concern. Her position represents a continuation of the past errors (corruption) of our government rather than the NEW DIRECTION that Obama represents.

Campaign launches Women for Obama (2007-04-16 11:14)

BarackObama.com had a full-page message for the victims of sad events at Virginia Tech today on the homepage:

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected by tragedy in Virginia today." **Women for Obama**
The website also announced a new group "Women for Obama" whose mission is to "forcefully and enthusiastically engage women, enlist women and empower women to recognize the difference our candidate can make in the '08 race and the world – and the difference we as women can make for our futures."
The web features for the group include talking points on Barack Obama's policies that are important to women, and reasons why they should support the candidate.

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Barack speaks out on violence (2007-04-16 21:43)

Barack Obama released a personal statement at his website on the Virginia Tech tragedy:

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Speaking in Milwaukee, Obama said citizens needed to act to stop violence. "We continue to be degraded by murders, crime and all manner of abuse perpetrated on our children, and Bobby Kennedy's right _ we tolerate it," Obama said. "Things haven't changed as much as they should have in the past 40 years, " referring to a speech by Kennedy after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

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Barack leads among young people, Harvard poll finds (2007-04-17 09:36)

A new Harvard poll suggests that Barack Obama is the most popular Democrat among young people between 18 and 24 years old.

Obama, Giuliani Lead Pack in Race for President Among 18-24 Year-Olds, Harvard Poll Finds

About 42 percent of young people prefer Obama compared to 24 percent for Hillary Clinton and 17 percent for John

Edwards. The Obama campaign faces a daunting task in registering, organizing and turning out these young voters, but it's certain that they cannot ignore the strong advantage they have among this group.

Also, a Strategic Vision poll shows that John Edwards still leads in Iowa with 27 percent, followed by Illinois senator Barack Obama with 20 percent, and New York senator Hillary Rodham Clinton with 19 percent.

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Campaign unleashes 'secret weapon' (2007-04-17 21:37)

The Obama campaign appears ready to unleash their 'secret weapon,' the candidate's spouse Michelle Obama as part of their effort to attract women voters.

Michelle's speech at the opening of the "Women for Obama" group gives us reason to believe she will be a formidable force in this race:

http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid416308493/bclid416343960/bctid_769427935

Resources Center at barackobama.com

BarackObama.com now has a Resources Center to help supporters organize locally in their community or online.

Resources offered are guides for organizing, printable flyers and videos to share or to create one's own DVDs:

✕ ✕ ✕ The guides section offers online viewable or pdf downloadable files that help supporters in getting started, holding their first meeting, holding orientation for new members and handling financial matters related to fundraising and costs.

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Only one flyer is offered currently – on healthcare – but more are promised for the future:

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[PDF]

The campaign offers so far two videos for download:

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Meet Barack Video

Length: 5:45 ✕

Springfield Announcement

Length: 22:03

These videos can be burned on to DVD or converted for use with home theater DVD systems using DVDFlick or iDVD.

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Obama for America to open Nevada HQ (2007-04-18 17:41)

The Barack Obama for America campaign will open its Nevada headquarters in Las Vegas on April 19. Campaign director David Plouffe will be at the public event to greet Obama supporters. You can sign up for the event at the [barackobama.com](http://my.barackobama.com) site:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/meeting/4vx72>

The Nevada caucus comes between the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary.

On April 22, Barack Obama will hold an Earth Day rally in Iowa City.

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Obama rises in polls (2007-04-19 09:13)

Barack Obama did well in most polls closing the gap with Hillary Clinton especially in the Harris and Rasmussen surveys. However, even more important than the barometers of who people favor at the moment, are the indications of who people disfavor or would not consider voting for.

Tracking studies have shown that voters who strongly dislike candidates rarely get converted later on down the line when it's time to vote.

In this category, the latest polls show Obama is very well-positioned.

Opponents of Barack, and not necessarily the other candidates, may try to counter his high favorability ratings with negative attacks. This could be more intense closer to election day when independent committees may launch attack ads on television.

To counter these attacks, the campaign and supporters will use rapid response counterattacks. The response was be quick and sufficient but not prolonged. Otherwise one ends up allowing the opponents to frame the issues of the campaign focusing on some perceived negative attributes of the candidate.

After responding to attacks, the best thing is to go on the offensive with substantive issues of comparison between the candidates, especially since Obama has promised not to mudsling himself.

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Barack Obama reveals climate change initiative (2007-04-20 14:56)

Barack Obama today unveiled an initiative to combat global warming through greater use of biofuels. The text below from the official website outlines his plan for a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard (NLCFS):

Barack Obama believes that the United States needs to take significant steps to use oil more efficiently in order to deal with the challenge of climate change and to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. One important way to use oil more efficiently is for the nation to transition towards fuels that emit less carbon dioxide.

“It will take a grassroots effort to make America greener and end the tyranny of oil. This Earth Day should mark the beginning of a nationwide effort to harness our technology, our ingenuity and our will to achieve energy independence in our time” continued Obama.

Obama’s proposal would require that all transportation fuels sold in the U.S. contain 5 percent less carbon by 2015 and 10 percent less carbon by 2020. By requiring less carbon intensive fuels, this national standard has the following benefits:

1. The market, rather than the government would determine which fuels are used by fuel distributors and blenders to meet the NLCFS. Because biofuels are less carbon-intensive than gasoline, the NCLFS would spur greater production of renewable fuels.
2. The NCLFS would also create an incentive for the production of more flexible-fuel vehicles that can run on ethanol and more plug-in hybrid vehicles that run on electricity.

The Obama proposal includes a banking and credit trading mechanism to allow providers of cleaner burning fuel to trade allowances to other producers or bank allowances against future carbon reductions.

The estimated impact of the Obama proposal would be dramatic, both in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing dependence on foreign oil. According to one estimate, the NCLCFS would reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 180 million metric tons in 2020, the equivalent of taking about 32 million cars off the road and it would also reduce the annual consumption of gasoline derived from foreign oil imports by about 30 billion gallons in 2020.

[Click here for the Carbon Fuel Fact Sheet.](#)

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Barack addresses Sharpton’s group (2007-04-21 19:35)

Senator Barack Obama wooed black voters and Al Sharpton’s endorsement at the ninth convention of Sharpton’s National Action Network in Manhattan.

Obama told the audience that blacks had to bear some blame for making the same type of insulting comments used by fired shock radio host Don Imus. "All of us have been complicit in diminishing ourselves, and engaging in the kind of self hatred that keeps our young men and young women down. That's something we have to talk about in this election."

Sharpton is expected to make his endorsement in a few weeks.

On the other side of the city in Brooklyn, lawmakers Hakeem Jeffries and Karim Camara from the Assembly, and State Senator Eric Adams formed a coalition that is expected to back Obama's candidacy.

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12,000 attend Obama Earth Day rally (2007-04-23 09:16)

Barack Obama attracted his largest crowd to date in Iowa, estimated at 12,000, for Earth Day celebrations where he called on citizens to make the environment a top issue.

Obama mentioned his own initiative to combat global warming, modeled on that of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, that would reduce emissions equivalent of taking 32 million cars off the road.

On Friday, Barack kicked off his New England campaign with an event at Boston University. The focus on university rallies is part of an overall strategy to recognize and utilize Barack's impressive appeal to young people.

A new subsection on the new site students.barackobama.com has been released for this purpose.

Getting students and other young people out to vote can be a problem.

For example, many students change residence during different parts of the year. For this reason, its important to get cellphone rather than land-line numbers, as well as email addresses to remind young supporters to vote. This will be especially important for newly-registered voters.

Technologies like text messaging and rallies and parties for early voting or on election day can also be used to mobilize young voters.

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Obama spells out foreign policy (2007-04-23 15:48)

Today, Barack Obama released details on his foreign policy plans for his administration:

- Bring a responsible end to this war in Iraq and refocus on the critical challenges in the broader region
- Modernize our overstretched armed forces, building the first truly 21st century military and show wisdom in how we deploy it
- Marshal a global effort to secure, destroy, and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction
- Rebuild and construct the alliances and partnerships necessary to meet common challenges and confront common threats
- Invest in our common humanity to ensure that those who live in fear and want today can live with dignity and opportunity tomorrow

On the question of foreign aid to developing countries, Barack told the Chicago Council on Global Affairs:

"I know that many Americans are skeptical about the value of foreign aid today. But as the U.S. military made clear in Camp Lemonier, a relatively small investment in these fragile states up front can be one of the most effective ways to prevent the terror and strife that is far more costly – both in lives and treasure – down the road. In this way, \$50 billion a year in foreign aid – which is less than one-half of one percent of our GDP – doesn't sound as costly when you consider that last year, the Pentagon spent nearly double that amount in Iraq alone."

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New groups flourish on barackobama.com (2007-04-24 07:33)

BarackObama.com has launched a number of new groups specific sections on the website including Women for Obama, Students for Obama and New Hampshire for Obama.

There are also new additions to the MyPolicy feature on the site focused on Barack's recent outline of his foreign policy direction. You can submit stories on your own experiences with the declining image and perception of America abroad at:

<http://my.barackobama.com/stories> Suggestions on foreign policy can be submitted to:

<http://my.barackobama.com/ideas> A number of groups have come up with innovative ways to support Barack. One group focuses on donating copies of Barack's two books to public libraries. Many people have commented on how reading the senator's books helped them decide on supporting him as a candidate.

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/group/AudacityofHopeBookDonationsforObama>

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack pulls in more big money backers (2007-04-24 13:26)

While Barack Obama's decision to run was fueled mostly by grassroots supporters including students, his broad support has encouraged many deep pockets to rally behind him.

Today news came of four more high-powered entrepreneurs that will raise funds for Obama for America.

Commodity trading billionaire Paul Tudor Jones II and former NY Knick Allan Houston will host fundraisers for Obama in Greenwich. Jones apparently was influenced by George Soros another hedge fund tycoon. Interestingly Jones has also helped Rudy Giuliani this election cycle.

Netroots to witness first online presidential debate

Yahoo, Slate and HuffingtonPost.com will host the first host the first digital debate in the fall to be mediated by Charlie Rose of PBS.

"With presidential candidates (making announcements) online and with campaign ads and fund-raising increasingly online, presidential campaigns are moving to the Internet at breakneck speed," Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, said in a statement.

The debates are scheduled to be held after Labor Day, on Yahoo Elections, The Huffington Post and Slate. On January 1 and 2, MySpace will hold a mock election of candidates who maintain MySpace profiles.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama says Giuliani using 'politics of fear' (2007-04-25 09:14)

Barack Obama rebuffed comments by Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani suggesting the risk of another terrorist attack if Democrats are elected into office.

"Rudy Giuliani today has taken the politics of fear to a new low and I believe Americans are ready to reject those kind of politics," Obama said in a statement. "America's mayor should know that when it comes to 9-11 and fighting terrorists, America is united. We know we can win this war based on shared purpose, not the same divisive politics that question your patriotism if you dare to question failed policies that have made us less secure," Obama said.

Obama campaign hires big media agencies

The Obama team has enlisted the services of Omnicom Group's GMMB and independent SS &K to help with media strategy and buying.

SS &K will also help "on non-traditional media and outreach and mobilization of young voters," campaign spokesperson Bill Burton said.

GMMB is one of the largest media-buying agencies for the Democratic Party. SS &K handles commercial clients that include Anheuser-Busch and Citibank.

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Online fund drive heats up again (2007-04-25 12:12)

The campaign is launching another online fundraising drive on the website:



If this rate of donation stays relatively constant there will be about 135,000 donors by the end of the second quarter compared to 104,000 in the first quarter.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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BarackObama.com floats over competition (2007-04-25 17:00)

According to alexa.com, the barackobama.com site continues to lead other candidate sites in reach, traffic and page views.

The Barack Obama entry in Wikipedia has fallen in the ranking of candidate sites from a high of third to seventh place possibly due to the fact that Obama's name recognition has risen according to poll results. As more people find out about Obama, they don't need to consult web sources anymore.

Obama's MySpace page, however, has continued its steady progress upward as is now rated as the 17th most popular candidate site according to alexa.com.

New contributors

According to a campaign email sent out today, about 90 percent of the contributors to Barack Obama this quarter are new contributors. That's good news especially if the older contributors who have not maxed out give again this time around.



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Barack spars for debate (2007-04-26 13:54)

Barack Obama practiced for tonight's debate at the Washington office of campaign lawyer Bob Bauer, and at least one other session according to Lynn Sweet.

Democratic consultant Anita Dunn and Cook County Board member Forrest Claypool have been helping the senator prepare for the first head-to-head encounter of the primary election televised nationwide (on MSNBC).

Barack at University of New Hampshire Biodiesel Facility

Photos from <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobamadotcom>

UNH Biodiesel Facility

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Analyzing the debate (2007-04-26 21:43)

Now that the first nationally-televised debate is over, Barack is leading by a wide margin in the MSNBC polls.

These polls differ from the pre-debate favorability survey in that John Edwards does better in the latter than Hillary Clinton. This leads me to believe that there are a good number of undecided people taking these polls and not just netroots activists.

Of course, these aren't scientific polls. They might give a good impression of what people who watched the debate and have internet access think. But cheating is possible.

Personally I think Barack Obama did the best among the front-runners because he stayed on message.

This wasn't a good forum for anyone to stand out. They didn't have enough time to expound on their views. Barack especially likes to answer with examples and stories. I think only Bill Richardson went over the time limit more than Barack.

So nobody scored a knockout punch, but nobody fell apart either. Some of the second-tier candidates got a chance to shine a bit after being denied the spotlight by the front-runners.

Barack though came through as the true 'bring the troops' home candidate among the front-runners. Hillary sounded more like she was running for the Republican nomination.

Edwards had a hard time appearing as the populist candidate. He did a fair job of fielding the question about his expensive haircuts payed for with campaign funds, but was unclear on his position regarding hedge funds.

Obama managed to stay true to his campaign message that many of us have heard many times now. He was criticized about that very fact by some pundits, but it simply reinforces the perception that he is consistent. As for the idea that he didn't add enough substance to his answers that is just ludicrous. He didn't have the time to give much more than a general idea of his positions.

We can expect some of the major polling companies to release post-debate surveys soon and it will be interesting to see if they agree with the current MSNBC polls.



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Anonymous (2009-12-12 10:06:20)
hm. thank you for this

Poll supports Barack performance in debate (2007-04-27 05:36)

The first scientific poll after last night's debate confirms the MSNBC survey of more than 100,000 respondents in declaring Barack Obama as looking the best of all the candidates.

A SurveyUSA poll of South Carolina voters found that 31 percent of participants thought Obama won the debate compared to 24 percent for Clinton and 14 percent Edwards.

Obama, I think, scored points with the party's base as was convincing as a leader truly interested in peace and with

intelligent ideas on maintaining national security. He again emerged as the practical choice for those opposed to the war.

It was interesting that many political commentators characterized as "centrist" a debate in which all the participants at least appeared as against the war, supported universal healthcare and with most open to new taxes.

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Obama urges pressure on Bush to sign budget (2007-04-27 15:58)

Barack Obama is urging supporters through his website to pressure George W. Bush into signing the current bill approved by the House and Senate:

"The House and Senate united and passed a bill that would provide for our troops now and begin a redeployment from Iraq to bring them home.

"We're one signature away – just one signature from President George W. Bush would end the tragic mistake that has cut short thousands of American lives, cost tens of billions of dollars, and destroyed America's global moral leadership. But only if the president signs the bill."

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Anonymous (2010-08-22 00:33:19)
nice stuff here, very very nice

"AMERICA IS **ONE SIGNATURE** AWAY FROM ENDING THE IRAQ WAR."

~ Senator Barack Obama
April 25, 2007

A piece of paper will soon be placed on George Bush's desk in the Oval Office for him to sign. By picking up a pen and signing his name to it, he could end the war in Iraq.

The House and Senate passed a bill that would provide for our troops in harm's way and require the start of a redeployment to bring them home.

We're one signature away – just one signature away from ending the tragic mistake that has cut short thousands of American lives, cost tens of billions of dollars, and destroyed America's global moral leadership. But only if the president signs the bill.

This is how simple it would be...
Here's my signature:

X _____

Tell everyone you know how simple it would be for George Bush to respect the overwhelming majority of Americans and use his signature to end the Iraq War now.

If you see this posted somewhere, take a photo and email it to photos@barackobama.com. If you want to download your own go to www.barackobama.com/one

Paid for by Obama for America

This is the flyer being distributed at barackobama.com pushing the president to sign the current bill passed by the House and Senate.

The American voting public clearly sent a signal in the last election that it wanted to bring back the troops from Iraq.

Polls have shown that most Americans are against the war, started on false premises, and want a redeployment to begin. George W. Bush as a representative of the people is required to listen to the voice of the majority.

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Barack to 'turn the page on Iraqi disaster' (2007-04-28 18:50)

Speaking before the annual convention of state Democrats in California, Barack Obama said he would "turn the page" on the Iraq War.

News reports indicate Barack received a much more enthusiastic response than Hillary Clinton, who was however also greeted warmly. Four years ago, Howard Dean was wildly received by California's left-leaning activists at the convention, while John Kerry was jeered while defending his vote for the Iraq War. However, Kerry went on to win the nomination.

Things are a bit different now though. There is nary a Democrat supporting the war these days. Howard Dean is the leader of national Democratic party. Obama can certainly use the California enthusiasm in raising funds for the early states and for Super(duper) Tuesday. Obama will be holding fundraisers while in the state.

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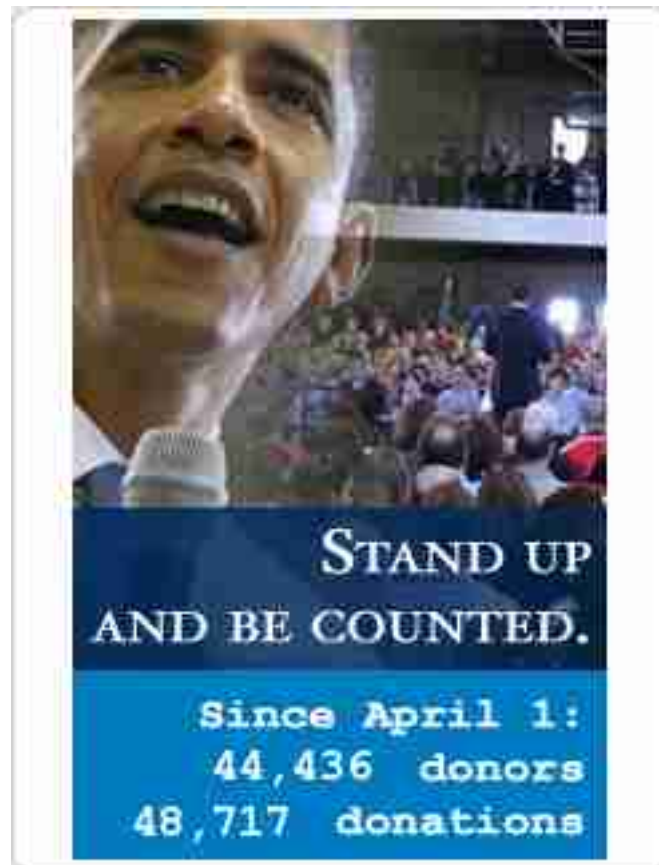
Barack's CA speech video (2007-04-29 10:21)

View Barack's energized speech at the California State Democratic Convention on Saturday in the YouTube video below.

At the event, it was reported that State Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero and State Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass will announce they are endorsing Obama. Romero joined former State Controller Steve Westly and San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, both of whom have previously endorsed the senator, onstage during Obama's speech.

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Biby Cletus (2007-04-29 10:34:00)

Nice post, its a really cool blog that you have here, keep up the good work, will be back.

Warm Regards

Biby Cletus - Blog

Obama cruising to fundraising heaven (2007-04-30 10:36)

With close to 47,000 donations online today, the Obama campaign is well on its way to topping the total 108,000 donations garnered in the first quarter of the year.

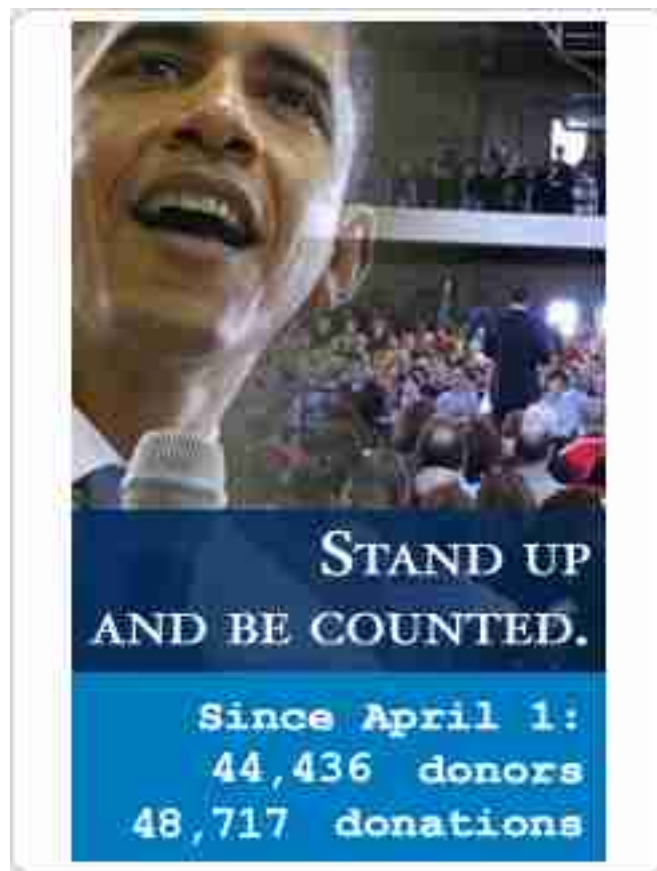
Black professionals are investing in Obama in a manner never seen before. When Jesse Jackson ran for president, there were fewer blacks in the professions and many did not see Jackson as a viable candidate.

BET.com users give Obama edge in debate

BET or Black Entertainment Television is the only nationwide African American television service. An online poll by BET.com found that most users thought Obama won the first presidential debate in South Carolina:

" In a BET.com users' poll, about 66 percent of you picked the Illinois Democrat as your favorite. U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), the only female candidate, finished in second place with 28 percent of the vote. Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.), came in third with 2 percent of the vote."

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Barack issues new appeal for funds (2007-04-30 15:56)

Barack Obama sent out a fundraising letter today. Actually two different letters of appeal. I post both below.

For good reason, many of us have become cynical about what politics can achieve in this country.

And as many Americans have turned away from Washington , we know all too well what's filled the void.

It's the lobbyists and influence-peddlers with the cash and the connections – the ones who've turned government into a game only they can afford to play.

They write the checks and we all get stuck with the bills.

They think they own this government.

But today, we're here to tell them it's not for sale.

Thank you for being one of the 40,000 people who helped us to continue our historic movement by making a contribution in the last thirty days. You understand that change happens not from the top down but from the bottom up. You understand that in order to make this movement sustainable, we must continue to grow.

We must show the keepers of the Washington status quo that the American people who are demanding a new kind of politics are not going anywhere.

Will you help us show them by spreading the word about our campaign to someone new?

<http://my.barackobama.com/makeitcount>

It's not going to be easy changing our politics.

We're divided into red states and blue states, and told to always point the finger at somebody else – the other party, or gay people, or immigrants.

People tell me I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington . But I promise you this – I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.

I'm running for President because the time for the can't-do, won't- do, won't-even-try style of politics is over. It's time to turn the page.

The people can count in politics once again. It's up to you to make it happen – can you spread the word about our campaign to someone new?

<http://my.barackobama.com/makeitcount>

There is an awakening taking place in America today. We are seeing crowds we've never seen before; we're seeing people showing up to the very first political event of their lives.

They're coming because they know we are at a crossroads right now. Because we are facing a set of challenges we haven't seen in a generation – and if we don't meet those challenges, we could end up leaving our children a world that's a little poorer and a little meaner than we found it.

The American people are hungry for a different kind of politics – the kind of politics based on the idea that we are all connected as one people, that we all have a stake in one another.

I learned years ago as a community organizer in Chicago that in the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it.

You and I, right now, can make that happen.

Thank you.



Barack Obama

—

For good reason, many of us have become cynical about what politics can achieve in this country.

And as many Americans have turned away from Washington, we know all too well what's filled the void.

It's the lobbyists and influence-peddlers with the cash and the connections – the ones who've turned government into a game only they can afford to play.

They write the checks and we all get stuck with the bills.

They think they own this government.

But today, we're here to tell them it's not for sale.

So far, just this month, over 40,000 people have stepped up to own a piece of this campaign and prove them wrong.

But the special interests and Washington insiders believe that they can still use their power and influence to control politics. They do not understand the power of the American people's will to change. They do not understand that when ordinary people come together, they can do extraordinary things.

They believe that hope is a fleeting feeling, and that people like you are a temporary bump in the long road of government of, by and for the privileged few. They are literally banking on it. Will you join us before midnight tonight and show that we are a movement serious about change? You can make your donation here:

[Link](#)

It's not going to be easy changing our politics.

We're divided into red states and blue states, and told to always point the finger at somebody else – the other party, or gay people, or immigrants.

People tell me I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I promise you this – I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.

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The people can count in politics once again. Now's the time for you to make it happen – be counted and make your donation:

[Link](#)

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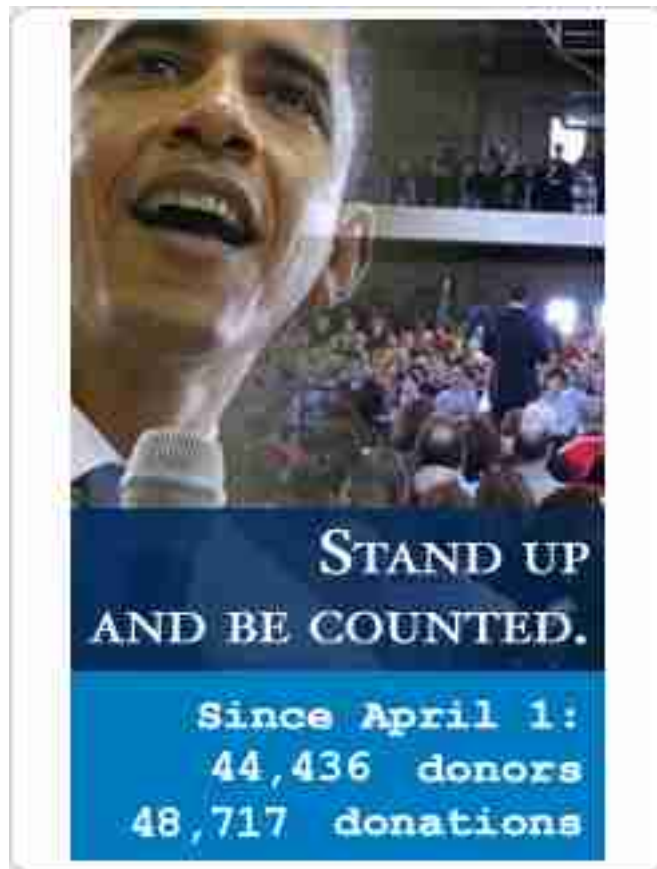
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You and I, right now, can make that happen.

Thank you.

Barack Obama



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Camp Obama and "Obama Imagines" (2007-04-30 21:19)

This summer the Obama campaign will hold internship camps to train volunteers and potentially paid staff for the ground campaign needed to win elections.

Here is an excerpt from the "Camp Obama" page:

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Are you ready to take your commitment to Barack Obama's campaign to the next level? Would you like to intern this summer or fall for the Obama Campaign in Chicago or one of the early primary and caucus states? Join Camp Obama!

Supporters from around the country will join the campaign for a 4-day training, campaign activities, and learning about Barack Obama and his vision for America. Half of each day will be spent in trainings and the other half in campaign activities such as canvassing, phone banks, and recruiting volunteers. After the training participants will be evaluated and offered an interview for internships, entry level campaign positions, or simply a greater volunteer role. Shorter weekend trainings will also be organized for those with less time available to participate.

Please fill out this form and the campaign staff will be in touch with you shortly.

Approximately 50 applicants will be accepted for each 4-day training so sign up today!

Now if you're ready for some inspiration , watch this great video "Obama Imagines" from ShawnaV, a my.barackobama.com member. [EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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1.5 May

Obama, The Conciliator (2007-05-01 07:21)

Shawna V, the creator of the "Obama Imagines" video wondered what she could do to help Barack in his race:

"I sometimes wonder how I can really get involved in this campaign and make a difference. I'm not a wealthy person that can tap the ladies at the country club for their donations. And I'm no longer a student in college with hours on end to volunteer and a seemingly impenetrable shield of optimism. I work full-time and I'm a full-time mom. I was literally nursing my toddler's flu symptoms while trying to catch snippets of the debate. I missed Obama coming to Tampa because I had to work. How in the world can I help get this man elected in what I feel is one of the most critical elections of my lifetime?"

Well, it didn't take her long to come up with a gem:

[EMBED]

Obama, The Conciliator

The New Yorker has an excellent in-depth article on Obama that breaks down how this man ticks. A must-read for Barackists and the curious alike:

"There are three things that Democratic political candidates tend to do when talking with constituents: they display an impressive grasp of the minutiae of their constituents' problems, particularly money problems; they rouse indignation by explaining how those problems are caused by powerful groups getting rich on the backs of ordinary people; and they present well-worked-out policy proposals that, if passed, would solve the problems and put the powerful groups in their place. Obama seldom does any of these things. He tends to underplay his knowledge, acting less informed than he is. He rarely accuses, preferring to talk about problems in the passive voice, as things that are amiss with us rather than as wrongs that have been perpetrated by them."

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/05/07/070507fa_fact_macfarquhar



Results of the Halle Berry primary

Endorsements flow in South Carolina Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum and more than a dozen other S.C. Democrats endorsed Barack Obama on Monday.

Joining Tenenbaum are:

Rep. Bakari Sellers of Bamberg; Rep. Todd Rutherford of Columbia; Columbia City Council members E.W. Cromartie and Tameika Isaac-Devine; Emile DeFelice, the party's 2006 candidate for state agricultural commissioner; former state party chairman Dick Harpootlian; Columbia activist and former state representative I.S. Leevy Johnson; Rep. Joe Jefferson of Berkeley County; Phil Noble of Charleston, president of the S.C. Democratic Leadership Council; Irmo Town Councilman Barry Walker; and Columbia activist Bud Ferillo.



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Bush vetoes Iraq bill, Obama answers (2007-05-01 15:48)

President George W. Bush vetoed the Iraq withdrawal bill today prompting this response from Senator Barack Obama:

With one stroke of his pen, President Bush has stubbornly ignored the will of the American people, the majority of Congress and, most disturbingly, the realities on the ground in Iraq. Now we call upon our Republican colleagues in Congress to help override this veto and acknowledge what the President will not – that there is no military solution to a political conflict that lies at the heart of this civil war. Only the Iraqi leadership can make peace, and the best way to pressure them to do so is still a phased withdrawal of American forces with the goal of removing all combat troops from Iraq by March 30th, 2008. It is time to end this war so we can bring our troops home and redeploy our forces to help fight the broader struggle against terrorism and other threats of this new century.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Bringing up race again...and again (2007-05-02 07:34)

Recently, the "white guilt" and "Magic Negro" theories on Barack Obama's campaign have resurfaced in print and blog media.

Unfortunately, it's still difficult for some people to understand how a person, particularly a white person, could support a black person for president.

The simple history of the movement to draft Obama puts to rest these concocted theories rather quickly. Barack has a natural appeal to young people who played a very key role in his decision to run. He's young himself, idealistic in many ways and reminds many people of all ages of John F. Kennedy. He has very similar charismatic appeal.

Another important segment that drove the draft Obama movement were the opponents of the Iraq War. To a great extent this group overlapped with Barack's young supporters, many of whom have friends or family in Iraq.

Barack has anti-war creds going back to 2002.

The whole idea that Barack's support despite his supposed lack of experience backs up the "white guilt" theory goes against historical analysis.

The last two presidents were elected without any Washington experience at all.

George W. Bush served only one term as governor of Texas before his election as president. In comparison, Barack will have had 12 years in high elective office, two terms in the Illinois State Senate and one in the U.S. Senate, if elected.

Barack is a superb writer and speaker and this no doubt has drawn many into his circle. He has natural appeal to people of all races.

This appeal has been demonstrated recently by his growing support among African Americans, who certainly don't suffer from white guilt. Some polls show him leading Hillary Clinton among this population group drastically reversing Clinton's previous "slam-dunk" backing among blacks.

Many commentators have noted that Barack has a particularly set of skills and experience that are particularly relevant to our time. His international background, multi-cultural upbringing in Hawai'i, and his intimate understanding of Muslim culture are among the unique qualities he brings to the table.

His appeal to progressives is also natural given his background as a street-level community organizer.

We live in a polarized world where the old clash between Muslim and Christian has been revived. Barack effectively straddles those two conflicting worlds. We live in a country that is increasingly biracial or in some cases as in Hawai'i, multiracial. And the environment is becoming more multicultural all the time.

Who can deny Barack's multicultural appeal?

There is something compelling about Obama's life-story. It's not Horatio Alger. He did not grow up dirt poor or pull himself up out of the gutter.

But his youth straddled the globe. He dealt with questions at a young age that are highly relevant to the situation America finds itself in today. He was raised by parents of both Muslim and Christian background, though non-religious. His search for identity that led him from the beaches of Hawai'i to the streets of Chicago is fascinating and attracts people toward him.

Now we should note that there is also this confusion about Barack as a "Safe Negro."

Of course, no one votes for anybody just because they are "safe" so we have to see this aspect in conjunction with the ideas of "white guilt" and the "Magic Negro."

Barack is not the confrontational, fiery black reverend type made familiar by Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. However, that's the only way we can really consider him "safe."

Opposed to this view is the picture of Barack Hussein Obama (rhymes with Osama), the supposed "hidden Muslim" ready to turn America into a Taliban state upon taking office. Or the Barack Obama who attends an "Afrocentric" church. The Barack Obama who joined anti-war protests went it was not a popular thing for Democrats to do.

However, all the efforts to paint Obama as an "unsafe" candidate have had little effect on his ratings. Some thought when the senator stood up in the Imus controversy it would hurt his support because he was stirring up the racial pot. But they were wrong. There is little evidence to support the suggestion that Barack cannot talk about race, or overtly oppose racism.

Barack does not have a confrontational style, indeed his style is considered unusual for Democrats in general. But

again, his unique approach of looking at the problem from all angles is something that separates Barack from the pack.

When we take off the race-tinted glasses, we find that there are many, many reasons to support Barack Obama as a person as a candidate regardless of race.

I think the real question that is perplexing the "Old Guard" is why even with these qualities are people supporting him in spite of his race. In the old way of thinking, race should be the primary, overriding factor, and old-way thinkers can't quite figure out what's going on.

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MySpace Hoopla (2007-05-02 14:58)

Media reports are buzzing over the Obama camp takeover of the Barack

Obama page on MySpace .com.

The action has caused what I would say is some of the first truly internal, rather than

mischievous-related, rumblings among the Obama netroots crowd. Not surprising perhaps given the scale of his support. Here is a part of what I wrote about the incident on the official public blog:

This whole episode brought to my mind the concept of "esprit de corps."

Under one definition this term refers to those who have sort of a sense of belonging to a group, organization, movement, etc.

Another definition involves a belief in which the well-being of the whole is taken as more important than that of any of its members.

Some people see Anthony as selfish and greedy. After all he was volunteering his time just like the rest of us. Why should he expect to get paid any more than any of us? Why could he not see the wisdom of ceding to the official campaign for the sake of the overall effort?

Others see Anthony as someone who was wronged. Who had his creation forcibly taken from him, although apparently he was offered some compensation.

The rights of the individual come into play in this type of thinking. A dislike of top-down hierarchy.

Are there two different bodies here - one of the movement, and another of the centralized official campaign?

Or is there a head (official campaign) connected to a body (movement, grassroots support)?

Of course, I referring to the more committed Obama supporters and realize that a lot of people on this site are just checking things out.

On another front, Oprah endorsed Barack again this time on the Larry King Show. A Mother Jones article comments: " If Obama uses Oprah to chip away at Clinton's base amongst women, it's over. Obama should just start campaign for re-election ."



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More MySpace news (2007-05-02 20:55)

There are two important MySpace developments to report.
First is a statement from Joe Rospars posted on the official blog:

There have been a lot of questions and comments in this community related to our MySpace profile, and so I wanted to come by and clarify how we got here and answer questions.

Our campaign started quickly. People around here say that this has been like building an airplane in mid-air, having already taken off. This is especially true of the New Media operation. While the campaign in general is going from zero to sixty, our team is at the same time charged with exploring the new ways we can build relationships between Barack and his supporters, and foster relationships among supporters themselves.

When it came to MySpace, we decided to take a leap. We decided to make the attempt to combine the organic support and community-building of a grassroots effort with the official campaign outreach efforts.

In many ways this mirrors what has happened on the campaign's own web site. On February 10th, the day Barack announced his candidacy in Springfield, we launched My.BarackObama.com has an unprecedented public utility for supporters.

Even on the campaign's own web site, the organizing efforts and community-building by the grassroots has outpaced the growth of the traditional campaign infrastructure. On the site, over 11,500 people have created their own blogs about everything from their issue priorities to their personal experience campaigning locally. Thousands of events have been planned using the events tool (social events, planning meetings, small fundraisers), and tens of thousands of people have RSVPed to these grassroots-driven gatherings.

And over 5,000 grassroots volunteer groups have been founded – in many states, these groups will be

the only organizational presence the campaign has. Even in the early states, staff organizers are hitting ground in places where volunteer groups have already been meeting and organizing. One of the first orders of business for new staff on the ground is getting to know the grassroots who have already started building the movement.

When it comes to MySpace, I'm not sure if a campaign of this size has ever teamed-up with a grassroots volunteer on this scale, but we wanted to give it a try.

Joe Anthony's great work was building community at the www.myspace.com/barackobama address, and so we contacted him.

At that point, the profile had about 40,000 friends, and to our delight, Joe agreed to work with us. Indeed, he seemed relieved to have some help – he gave us the password, and we began to exchange content, work together, and continue growing this community from the ground-up. We created images that he (and others online) could post, and began going through the process of preparing the profile to be "official" by combing through the content and establishing a plan to ensure that everyone who tried to contact the campaign through the profile received an answer. (People wrote messages and comments in huge numbers, virtually all addressed to Barack or the campaign – "Will you come speak at my graduation?", "Where do you stand on issue X?", "How can I help locally?", etc.)

We started talking to Joe about formalizing the arrangement, preserving his work building the community, and talking through how to preserve his involvement in the direction and development of the profile.

For a time, both the campaign and Joe had mutual access. Soon after, MySpace launched a promotional campaign to direct traffic to the official candidate pages. The campaign allowed MySpace to promote this unofficial profile because, strictly speaking, there was no official presence. And so MySpace began featuring the profile in candidate promotions – and the friends and workload grew.

We knew Joe had a full-time job already, and, early on, we floated the idea of moving to Chicago to work for us full-time (potential staffers were moving to Chicago and join the team at that time, and there were openings). I totally agree when Chris Bowers says that the New Media/online outreach efforts of campaigns should be a priority – and we have built an operation here in Chicago and in the early states that reflects that posture.

But Joe seemed to prefer to volunteer part-time from the outside with the campaign to continue building the community. He said he was honored to help out, and we were honored to work with him. We worked through the complications that arose: letting Joe know that he shouldn't work on the site from work, educated him about the rules governing campaign promotion of official Senate material, etc. Joe was right with us, and things continued down the path towards making this unofficial community into an official space run with help from volunteers.

As we progressed, we began to work-up paperwork that would codify this arrangement – ensuring that the campaign would have full access (what if someone put up an obscene comment during the day while Joe was at work?), and assuming the liability burden (legally, ethically, and politically) for what happened on the site.

At the same time, though, the community had skyrocketed. Nobody expected the grassroots to respond this campaign in such large numbers the way they have, and the rapid growth of the MySpace profile once the MySpace Impact Channel began promoting the various candidates is yet another example of the appeal of Barack. We were well over 100,000 friends, and the burden of administering such a profile became immense.

Unfortunately, at that point, Joe changed the password on the profile, and didn't give us the new one, like he had done in the past. This changed the previous dynamic, and we could no longer access the profile at a moment's notice if need be. We asked Joe what was needed to restore access, and subsequently we received the list of itemized financial requests that have been discussed elsewhere.

This made us uncomfortable. Every day, MySpace was driving tens of thousands of people to the page on the premise that this was more or less our "official" presence – yet we had no access to the content on the page, and no ability to be responsive to the thousands of messages coming in from supporters

seeking information or action from the campaign.

We talked to Joe and made clear that we truly wanted to incorporate the community into the campaign's official presence, but that if these financial demands were a precursor to the campaign having access at all, that we would need to start with an official profile separately and have MySpace promote that instead.

And so it became clear that we needed to have MySpace point people at something we had at least basic access to – immediately. In MySpace, politicians, musicians, and other public figures have the right to their own name (www.myspace.com/barackobama, www.myspace.com/hillaryclinton, etc.), and so we asked MySpace for use of that URL and to ensure that any promotion of "official" profiles for candidates be directed to the new profile our team created.

The community of the 160,000 still exists, and we've made sure that MySpace will let Joe have access to the community he helped build. And we hope we can continue to work with him to make that as effective as it can be.

At the end of the day, this is all new for everyone – this Joe, that Joe, and everyone participating or commenting on it. We're flying by the seat of our pants, and establishing new ways of doing things every day. We're going to try new things, and sometimes it's going to work, and sometimes it's not going to work. That's the cost and that's the risk of experimenting. Joe launched this profile for all the right reasons, and for a while grew it with us.

But the ultimate purpose is building a community around the idea that ordinary people can come together and affect change in this country. Barack Obama is the candidate I believe can transform the process and make that change happen.

And, to the extent that more and more people every day come to that same conclusion, my bet is that both profiles will continue to grow.

The other development was a call from Barack Obama to Joe Anthony, the owner of the original MySpace page for Obama, as reported in the latter's MySpace blog:

Dated Today May 2, 2007

TC from Barack Obama (!!!)

I just received a phone call from Barack Obama himself.

He expressed his appreciation and we agreed that there is something to be learned by everyone involved at this point. (Frankly, I was a little surprised by the call, and was too nervous to remember any exact quotes)

I assured him that this is just a horrible thing that happened and obviously he wasn't responsible and shouldn't be held responsible. It's his campaign that perhaps mismanaged this whole thing. He of course stands by his campaign, but again. . . much to be learned by all.

I'm sure he has mixed feelings in speaking with me about this, but it was nice of him to call, and quite an honor to finally speak to him!

I guess I have mixed feelings as well, but it was still a great honor.

I urge you all to consider this situation carefully. It'll take time for me to work this out and decide if I will personally continue to support Obama, regardless of how I feel about his campaign's handling of this situation.

It's not right what they did to me and this profile, but it's also wrong to let this change your views of Barack Obama as a candidate.

After all it was Obama that inspired me to do all this.

What a day. I'll keep you posted. . . .



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama gains ground in Hillary country (2007-05-03 08:38)

Harlem State Senator Bill Perkins became the first major elected Clinton supporter in New York to break ranks and endorse Senator Barack Obama.

"I think that his message of hope and opportunity is the right message. ... There's no question that folks in New York - and throughout the country - are looking for a change from the way things are being done," said Perkins.

Other NY elected officials have banded together to explore the possibility of endorsing Obama.

Barack makes Time's most influential

Obama was selected as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people. Hillary Clinton also made the list, but Barack got better coverage on the magazine cover:





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More details on Camp Obama (2007-05-03 09:28)

Camp Obama is training a number of Illinois elected officials with name recognition in neighboring Iowa to campaign for the senator there.

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Illinois officials who will campaign for Barack Obama in Iowa. From left to right, top to bottom,
Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn;

Secretary of State Jesse White, who is also on the board;

Attorney General Lisa Madigan;

Comptroller Dan Hynes; and

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) According to Lynn Sweet's blog, Camp Obama will focus on the following:

- Organizing sister city programs. One getting off the ground is between Illinois communities and Iowa. For example, Obama backers who live in Evanston or the Lake View neighborhood on the North Side would be assigned precincts to get to know in Cedar Rapids.

- Training volunteers to canvass voters – which means shoe-leather door knocking to find out whom a registered voter supports, leans toward, or wants to know more about.

Obama canvassers will be fanning out across the country. The idea is not to have strangers making calls and house visits but to use all the social networking tools available to make real people-to-people sustained connections.

- Building networks for low-dollar fund-raising.
- Opening an office in the Loop where volunteers can come, work and just hang out.
- Creating Camp Obama. No, there's not going to be cabins with bunks. But it will be in Chicago. Camp Obama is a training program – run by campaign professionals – being launched by the campaign. People who do well in the four-day training will be put in the pipeline for internships and paid jobs. Training topics will include canvassing, phone banking and recruiting volunteers. Camp Obama applications can be found at www.barackobama.com.

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More info arises on Obama Secret Service detail (2007-05-04 08:51)

New reports indicate that Barack Obama initially resisted advice from friends, including Sen. Dick Durbin, to ask for Secret Service protection, but eventually gave in:

"Although Sen. Barack Obama has been drawing enormous crowds and intense attention during his presidential campaign, friends say he has resisted the idea of a U.S. Secret Service detail for fear it would limit what has been a great part of his appeal, namely his ability to make a close connection with voters. But those reservations gave way to security concerns on Thursday, when the Secret Service assigned a team to the Illinois Democrat."

It appears that some race-based chatter on white supremacist websites also played into the final decision to request security. However, no specific threats against Obama have been reported.



Barack and Stevie Wonder at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Central Los Angeles last Sunday.

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Barack at Baton Rouge (2007-05-05 20:29)

Barack Obama spoke today at the National Conference of Black Mayors in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The event had to be moved to the arena because of the large crowd and Barack received several standing ovations. A video of the speech is presented below along with the entire official transcript.

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Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the National Conference of Black Mayors

EMBARGOED for Delivery

Baton Rouge

, LA-

Senator Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver the following remarks to the National Conference of Black Mayors.

As Prepared for Delivery:

It is an honor to be here at Southern University. It is a privilege to stand with so many of our leading mayors from across this country. Whether it's a small town or a big city, the government that's closest to the people is the one the people count on the most.

Our mayors are on the frontlines when it comes to housing, education, job creation, and finding new ways to strengthen our families and communities. They are some of the hardest working people in America and when a disaster strikes: a Katrina, a shooting, or a six alarm blaze—it's city hall we lean on. It's city hall we call first. And it's city hall we depend on to get us through the tough times.

Last weekend, I attended a service to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the LA Riots. After a jury acquitted 4 police officers of beating Rodney King—a beating that was filmed and flashed around the world—Los Angeles erupted. I remember the sense of despair and powerlessness in watching one of America's greatest cities engulfed in flames.

But I want to start today with an inspiring story from that tragic event—a story about a baby who was born into this world with a bullet in its arm.

We learned about this child from a doctor named Andy Moosa. He was working the afternoon shift on April 30 at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood as the second day of violence was exploding in the streets.

He told us about a pregnant woman who had been wearing a white dress. She was in Compton and on her way to the supermarket. Where the bullet came from nobody knew. Her sister-in-law noticed a red spot in the middle of her white dress and said that I think you've been shot. The bullet had gone in, but it had not exited. The doctor described the ultrasound and how he realized that the bullet was in the baby. The doctor said, "We could tell it was lodged in one of the upper limbs. We needed to get this baby out so we were in the delivery room."

And here's the thing: the baby looked great. Except for the swelling in the right elbow in the fleshy part, it hadn't even fractured a bone. The bullet had lodged in the soft tissue in the muscle. The baby was fine. It was breathing and crying and kicking. They removed the bullet, stitched up the baby's arm, and everything was fine. The doctor went on to say that there's always going to be a scar to remind that child how quickly she came into the world in very unusual circumstances.

Let's think about that story. There's always going to be a scar there, that doesn't go away. You take the bullet out. You stitch up the wound and 15 years later, there's still going to be a scar.

Many of the students in this room were just learning to read and write when the riot started and tragedy struck the corner of Florence and Normandy. Most of the mayors here know that those riots didn't erupt over night; there had been a "quiet riot" building up in Los Angeles and across this country for years.

If you had gone to any street corner in Chicago or Baton Rouge or Selma or Trenton or Arcola, Mississippi—you would have found the same young men and women without hope, without prospects, and without a sense of destiny other than life on the edge—the edge of the law, the edge of the economy, the edge of family structures and communities.

Those "quiet riots" that take place every day are born from the same place as the fires and the destruction and the police decked out in riot gear and the deaths. They happen when a sense of disconnect settles in and hope dissipates. Despair takes hold and young people all across this country look at the way the world is and believe that things are never going to get any better. You tell yourself, my school will always crumble. There will never be a good job waiting for me to excel at. There will never be a place that I can be proud of and I can afford to call my home. That despair quietly simmers and makes it impossible to build strong communities and neighborhoods. And then one afternoon a jury says, "Not guilty"—or a hurricane hits—and that despair is revealed for the world to see.

Much of what we saw on our television screens 15 years ago was Los Angeles expressing a lingering, ongoing, pervasive legacy—a tragic legacy out of the tragic history this country has never fully come to terms with. This is not to excuse the violence of bashing in a man's head or destroying someone's store and their life's work. That kind of violence is inexcusable and self-defeating. It does, however, describe the reality of many communities around this country.

And it made me think about our cities and communities all around this country, how not only do we still have scars from that riot and the “quiet riots” that happen every day—but how in too many places we haven't even taken the bullet out.

Look at what happened in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast when Katrina hit. People ask me whether I thought race was the reason the response was so slow. I said, “No. This Administration was colorblind in its incompetence.” But everyone here knows the disaster and the poverty happened long before that hurricane hit. All the hurricane did was make bare what we ignore each and every day which is that there are whole sets of communities that are impoverished, that don't have meaningful opportunity, that don't have hope and they are forgotten. This disaster was a powerful metaphor for what's gone on for generations.

In New Orleans, the murder rate was one of the highest in the country—ten times the national average—well before the hurricane hit. Young men died far more frequently from gunshot wounds than they did from anything else. The schools were failing long before the levees broke. The city's poverty rate was twice the national average. There was a reason why the evacuation failed and so many people were stranded on their roof tops. The folks who were making the plans assumed that people had cars that they could fill up with gas, put some Perrier in the back, drive to a hotel, and check in with a credit card for a week.

Of course, the federal response after Katrina was similar to the response after the riots in Los Angeles. People in Washington wake up and are surprised that there's poverty in our midst, and that others were frustrated and angry. Then there are panels and there are hearings. There are commissions. There are reports. Aid dollars are approved but they can't seem to get to the people. And then nothing really changes except the news coverage quiets down.

This isn't to diminish the extraordinary generosity of the American people at the time. I want to thank the faculty and students here at Southern University for turning your field house and dorms into shelters for so many in the aftermath of Katrina. That act of kindness—the light in that storm—will never be forgotten. I want to thank the National Conference of Black Mayors for their efforts: securing more \$125 million in New Market Tax credits to assist with redevelopment, and creating your own disaster relief fund that helped 5,000 families in 54 Gulf Coast communities.

But despite this extraordinary generosity, here we are 19 months later—or 15 years later in the case of LA—and the homes haven't been built, the businesses haven't returned, and those same communities are still drowning and smoldering under the same hopelessness as before the tragedy hit.

It is time for us to come together and take the bullet out.

If we have more black men in prison than are in our colleges and universities, then it's time to take the bullet out. If we have almost 2 million people going to the emergency room for treatable illnesses like asthma that costs us half a billion dollars; it's time to take the bullet out. If one out of every nine kids doesn't have health insurance; it's time to take the bullet out. If we keep sending our kids to dilapidated school buildings, if we keep fighting this war in Iraq, a war that never should have been authorized and waged, a war that's costing us \$275 million dollars a day and the sacrifice of so many innocent lives—if we have all these challenges and nothing's changing, then every mayor in America needs to come together—form our own surgery teams—and take the bullets out.

Let's start with education.

We know what works. We know that if we put a dollar into early childhood education that we get seven dollars back in reduced drop out rates, reduced delinquency, reduced prison rates, more young people can go to college and get good jobs.

We know they work. An important study about an old program called Abecedarian, in which children from low-income families, almost all of them black, received full-time educational child care from infancy through age 5, said kids were three times more likely to go to college. They were half as likely to become a teen parent and smoke marijuana. In another study about another effective program at the Perry Preschool, which served low-income black children in Michigan, kids needed special education less often, and they were three times as likely to own their own home and half as likely to go on welfare. That early childhood program even helped the next generation.

So we know what it takes to improve our schools. We know that if children are learning in dilapidated buildings with teachers that are underpaid and textbooks that are 20 years old, they will not learn.

To change this, we need to fundamentally reform No Child Left Behind. The slogan is right, but how the law has been implemented is wrong. The slogan is good, but how they left the money behind is wrong. Let's get serious.

Let's finally make a quality education accessible to every American child so that every student can graduate from high school ready for college and work in a knowledge-based economy.

To begin the great transformation in our schools, we need to invest in the most important part of a child's education: the man or woman standing at the head of the classroom. As President, I will recruit hundreds of thousands of new teachers and principals. For what it costs us to fund the Iraq war for 30 days, we can recruit a new army of teachers and principals.

As President, I will recruit a new generation of science and technology leaders to teach our children the skills they will need to be competitive. We need to expand summer learning opportunities for our children emphasizing math and science. And students, who live in poverty, suffer from a learning disability or who don't speak English at home, should get the extra help they need and their schools need the resources to help their students reach their full potential.

I want to support teachers at all stages of their careers by increasing salaries across the board, improving incentives to get the best teachers to work in our rural areas and our most challenging cities, providing more resources so that teachers have more security and control over their classrooms, and by providing more opportunities for professional development.

There are models of excellence in many communities that show when you put a great teacher in a classroom, students can learn. There's Murphy High School in Mobile Alabama and Rufus King in Milwaukee Wisconsin. There's no shortage of great ideas; we just need to scale them up. We need to get past the old style of politics that only talks about education and start actually educating our kids for the 21st century.

And while we're at it, let's do something for the young people ready for college. Here at Southern University in Baton Rouge, I'm sure that this won't come as a surprise when I say that college tuition rates are rising almost 10 percent a year. Those increases have priced out more than 200,000 students in 2004. And for what it costs to fund the Iraq War for three weeks, we could provide each student with four years at a public college or university.

We all know how important education is. It's a passport to a better life. But millions of children are not given an equal chance to realize their own potential. And for too long, our kids—not "those kids," but our kids—have been asked to settle for mediocrity simply because of their zip code, the color of their skin, and how much their parents earn.

This is wrong. We must change. We must take this bullet out if America is to remain the leading force for good and creativity and innovation in this world.

But we can't stop at education if we want stronger communities. We need to provide economic opportunity in every corner of our country if we want to take the bullet out.

We know what it takes to develop our communities economically. Right now, the Iraq War is set to cost us \$2 trillion dollars—that's more than enough to lay broadband lines from "Columbia South Carolina to Portland Oregon." What good is the Information Super Highway when too many towns and cities are still riding around in dial-up. We must connect the disconnected so economic opportunity is there for everyone—not just everyone who can afford it. It might not stop certain jobs from being outsourced to India, but this national effort would create jobs over 60,000 jobs a year over the next two decades and improve our country's competitiveness.

We know that we have to invest in transitional jobs too. When there are people who are homeless, veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder from this war in Iraq, and thousands of children aging out of foster care, we can't expect them to have all the skills they need for work. They may need help with basic skills—how to show up to work on time, wear the right clothes, and act appropriately in an office. We have to help them get there.

That's why I have called for \$50 million to begin innovative new job training and workforce development programs. This plan will also provide mentoring opportunities and let case workers help men and women make difficult transitions. It will coordinate with local employers, community colleges, and community organizations so that job training programs are actually connected to good paying jobs with the opportunity for career growth. This would help lift more people out of poverty and into the middle class.

There are models all across this country for how for how we can rebuild our cities and communities. There's a new idea coming for the Gulf Coast and the New Orleans area. Congressman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, Emanuel Cleaver, the former mayor of Kansas City and head of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus will soon introduce legislation that creates a Gulf Coast recovery and empowerment initiative. It will employ people who fled the region to rebuild the region: the houses, the businesses, roads and bridges. It will give people an incentive to move back home and put them back to work. That's the kind of leadership we need to take the bullet out.

If we want to create more jobs in our communities, let's stop sending \$800 million a day to some of the most hostile nations on the planet and end our dependence on foreign oil. We don't have an energy policy right now. That's why we're funding both sides of the war on terror, melting the polar ice caps, and letting the old style of politics make sure that Detroit doesn't produce more fuel efficient cars. And if we don't do something soon, more Katrina's are going to happen and we know which communities will bear the brunt of those storms.

When it comes to global climate change and developing the fuels for the 21st century, America must lead. I want our farmers to grow the renewable fuels and produce biofuels. I want us to lead the way on low carbon fuels. I want our young people to imagine and build the next great inventions. If we finally have a president who deals with this challenge, we could not only make our country safer, we could save the planet and create jobs throughout all our communities. We must meet this challenge. We must take the bullet out that's stopped our progress for all these years and bring more economic opportunities to every community. We can do this.

But while we're at it, what good is an education and a job, if there are only million dollar mansions and quarter million dollar condos and you can't afford a place to live? When our children are being priced out of the neighborhoods and towns they grew up in and when families cannot find safe places to live near their job, that's a bullet that's got to come out too.

We have to invest in housing again. In too many communities low-income families are priced out of the housing market. In fact, there is not a single metropolitan area in the country where a family earning minimum wage can afford decent housing.

We need to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that would create as much as 112,000 new affordable units in mixed income neighborhoods. We need to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant initiative. As a former community organizer on the south side of Chicago, I know how critical those grants are and we have to do more to strengthen the partnership between the federal and local governments when it relates to housing programs like Section 202 for all those seniors who lost their apartments when the hurricane hit. We can do this.

We must also do more to protect homeowners in this country. A recent report found that the housing market experienced its worst sales-month in 18 years and foreclosures are up 47 % compared to last year. Right now, too many people are caught in a nightmare caused by mortgage fraud and predatory lending.

That is why my "Stop Fraud" proposals require mortgage professionals to report suspected fraudulent activity and support state and local law enforcement in their efforts to fight fraud. It addresses abuses in the subprime loan market where 2 million homeowners may be at risk of foreclosure. And it provides \$25 million for housing counseling to tenants, homeowners, and other consumers so they get the advice and guidance they need before buying a house and support if they get in to trouble down the road.

Even if we succeed in making housing and homeownership affordable for all, if we don't help strengthen the families that live inside those homes, then those bullets will make the American house crumble from the inside out. We have to do more to help families balance work and take care of one another. Let's help 17 million children by extending the child tax credit to low-income workers. Let's stop spending \$275 million a day in Iraq and pass some tax cuts that people actually need.

If we want stronger families in America, then we have to confront the tough issues. When too many fathers think that responsibility ends at conception – when they have not yet realized that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child but the courage to raise one, we know that our families are in crisis. That's a self-inflicted wound we all have to help heal.

Now there are ways that the government can help. That's why I introduced the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act. It provides fathers with innovative job training services and increases access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It calls for an increase in child support enforcement by almost \$5 billion over 10 years, resulting in nearly \$20 billion in collection. That money will go directly to children and their mothers. But let's be honest, government alone can't solve the breakdown of our families. This is something we have to look to ourselves so that fathers become parents too.

We know what the challenges are in small towns and big cities across this country. We know what those bullets are. We've talked about them for years. What's stopped us from meeting these challenges and taking these bullets out is not the absence of sound policies and sensible plans. What's stopped us is the failure of leadership and absence of urgency and a belief that if we ignore our problems like discrimination and poverty that they will somehow go away.

For the last six years we've been told that our mounting debts don't matter, we've been told that the anxiety Americans feel about rising health care costs and stagnant wages are an illusion, we've been told that climate change is a hoax, and that tough talk and an ill-conceived war can replace diplomacy, and strategy, and foresight. And when all else fails, when Katrina happens, or the death toll in Iraq mounts, we've been told that our crises are somebody else's fault. We're distracted from our real failures, and told to blame the other party, or gay people, or immigrants.

That kind of politics has to stop. That kind of quackery has to stop. We don't need anymore faith healers and snake oil salesmen. We need some doctors to take the bullets out.

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Before we can start that work, we need to end this war in Iraq, which has cost our country and our people so much. I opposed it from the very start, back in 2002 when it wasn't popular to be against this war. I opposed it because I believed strongly that it could lead to the disaster we find ourselves in today, with our brave young service men and women mired in the middle of a civil war.

This war never should have been authorized by Congress and it never should have been waged. And it's time, once and for all, to bring our troops home. It's time to recognize that American soldiers can't solve Iraq's political differences or ethnic rivalries.

That's why I introduced a plan in January that would have begun withdrawing our combat forces on May 1st-five days ago-and would have brought them home by March 31st, while forcing the Iraqi government to meet its obligations.

And this is basically the plan the President vetoed this week, defying not just a majority of Congress but the will of the American people. But rest assured, his veto was not the last word. If the President continues to stubbornly ignore the realities of Iraq, we intend to force our colleagues in the Senate and House to take vote after vote until we overcome his veto or he finally understands that we have to change course.

We need 16 Republican votes in the Senate to override a veto. There's a Republican right here in Louisiana who needs to vote to end the war. Tomorrow I'll be in Iowa and there's a senator there whose vote we need. I need the mayors and the students here to call their senators and congressman too. This is the only chance we have to truly end the war. It's not symbolic; this is real. Sixteen votes and we can turn the page on this war. Sixteen votes and we can start bringing our men and women home.

Let me just close by saying this. We can only meet these challenges together. We can only take these bullets out together. We can only strengthen our cities and towns and in turn transform our nation, together.

We know how the doctors do it. We watch some of these TV shows like ER and Gray's Anatomy. The doctors are in the operating room. One's got the scalpel, but others are watching the monitors and administering the IV. The nurses are on the job. The orderlies are on the job. There was a team that got the bullet out of that baby girl 15 years ago. She's got a scar on her arm, always will, but she survived.

America

is going to survive. We won't forget where we came from. We won't forget what happened 19 months ago, 15 years ago, 200 years ago. We're going to pull out bullet after bullet. We're going to stitch up arm after arm. We're going to wear those scars for justice. We're going to usher in a new America the way that newborn child was ushered in.

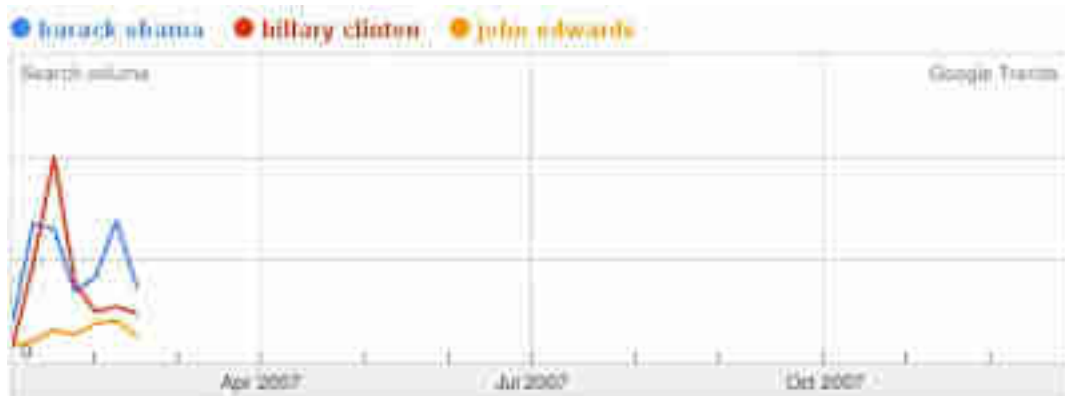
We're never going to forget there is always hope—there is always light in the midst of desperate days—that a baby can be born even with a bullet in her arm. And we can come together as one people and transform this nation.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Netroots continue to favor Obama (2007-05-06 08:36)



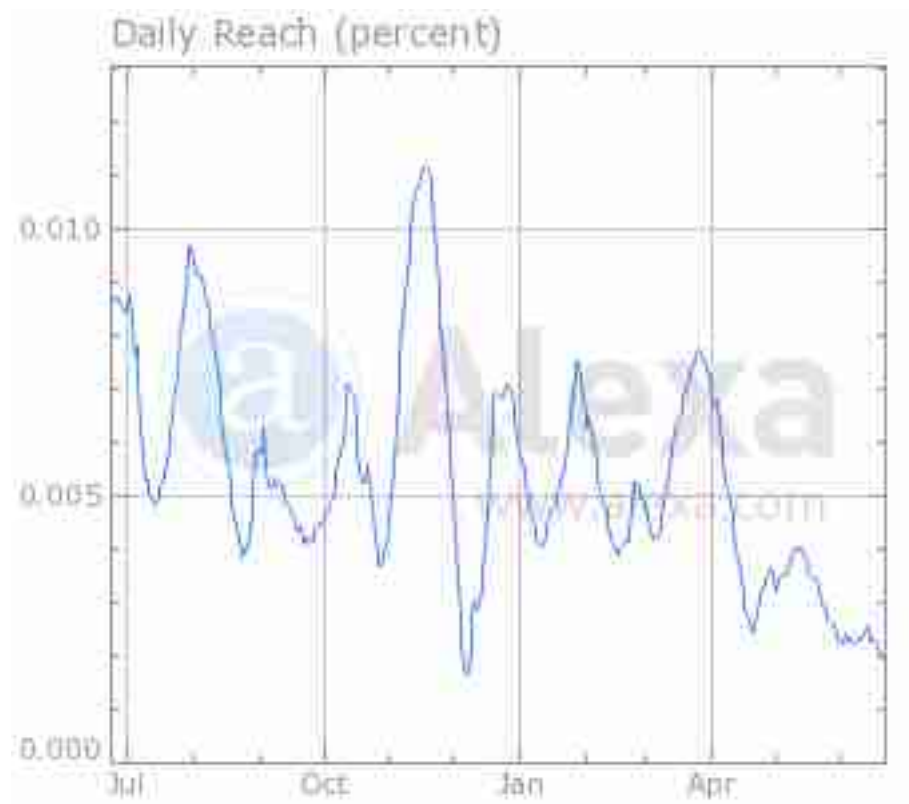
Google Trends tracks searches on the popular Google search engine.

In a head-to-head match with Hillary Clinton and John Edwards, Obama has generally been out ahead during this year up to the latest data in about March.

Alexa.com also continues to show that Barack Obama's official website continues to hover above those of the other top contenders:

Traffic Details for:

- www.barackobama.com
- www.hillaryclinton.com
- www.johndwards.com
- www.kucinich.us
- www.joebiden.com



Despite the controversy on MySpace, Barack's page has rocketed to ninth place as the most popular candidate site according to alexa.com:

Most Popular In Candidates

The most visited sites in all 'Candidates' categories. 1. Obama '08 www.barackobama.com

- Site info

2. HillaryClinton.com www.hillaryclinton.com

- Site info

3. John Edwards for President 2008 www.johnedwards.com

- Site info

4. Dennis Kucinich for President 2008 www.kucinich.us

- Site info

5. JoinRudy2008 The Exploratory Committee www.joinrudy2008.com

- Site info

6. Mitt Romney www.mittromney.com

- Site info

7. Mike Gravel for President 2008 www.gravel2008.us

- Site info

8. Wikipedia - Barack Obama en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama

- Site info

9. MySpace - Barack Obama www.myspace.com/barackobama

- Site info

10. Ron Paul 2008 www.ronpaul2008.com

- Site info

Notice that Barack has three sites in the top ten, and is the only candidate with more than one site in this listing.

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Bush's low ratings could bode well for Obama (2007-05-06 18:29)

The recent Newsweek pool has George W. Bush's favorable ratings down to 28 percent the lowest ever since the days of Jimmy Carter.

This may be yet another indication of the unpopularity of the Iraq War as the poll was conducted on Mar. 2 and 3 after Bush vetoed the Iraq War bill on Mar. 1.

Most analysts appear to concede that the war will be the main issue of the election, and Barack is well-positioned as the favorite of the anti-war crowd.

Another good bit of news about that poll is that Barack was rated as the most optimistic of all the candidates, a position usually held by Republicans.

Obama is New York this weekend to attend four events including a fundraising dinner in Scarsdale.

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Barack calls for greater fuel efficiency (2007-05-07 08:16)

In the text of his speech to political and business leaders in Detroit, Barack Obama called on American automakers to make more fuel-efficient vehicles.

"For years, while foreign competitors were investing in more fuel-efficient technology for their vehicles, American automakers were spending their time investing in bigger, faster cars," he said.

"The need to drastically change our energy policy is no longer a debatable proposition. It is not a question of whether, but how; not a question of if, but when. For the sake of our security, our economy, our jobs and our planet, the age of oil must end in our time."

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Democratic presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks to local Democrats, Sunday, May 6, 2007, at the Walter Cunningham Center for Excellence in Waterloo, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall via Yahoo News.)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Taking it to the Streets (2007-05-07 16:09)

Barack Obama sent a letter today to supporters asking them to participate in a national canvassing day "Taking it to the Streets" on June 9.

The letter is below and at the end two interesting videos showing the southpaw Obama during his basketball glory days as 'Barry O'Bomber.'

✖ For too many people, politics is a bad word. It's not surprising since for many people "politics" means talking heads screaming at each other on TV, or special interests stacking the deck in Washington .

We have an opportunity to change that. When politics gets local, when the person talking is your neighbor standing on your front porch, things change.

On June 9th, hundreds of thousands of people will have that experience as we take our campaign to the streets in all 50 states for a nationwide neighborhood walk.

We're calling it Walk for Change, and its success depends on you. I'm asking you for something extraordinary. I'm asking you to lead a group of supporters in your community in a neighborhood walk to let people know about our campaign.

If you agree to organize a walk, we'll mail you the materials you need to start a conversation with your neighbors about being part of this movement for change. But it can only happen if you're willing to take the leap and put together a June 9th Walk for Change event where you live:

<http://my.barackobama.com/createwalk>

It's not common these days to reach out to a neighbor.

We're more likely to nod quickly and smile when unloading the groceries or walking the dog than we are to stop and talk about the things that shape our common destiny.

But the great issues of our day shouldn't just be topics to fill time between commercials on cable news. These challenges – ending the war in Iraq, solving the health care crisis, tackling climate change – affect each one of us personally.

And the solutions to each one will require personal investment from all of us.

That's why it's so important to create this dialogue in your community – to have a serious conversation about what matters most to your neighbors, and to share with them why this movement for change is personal for you.

<http://my.barackobama.com/createwalk>

We shouldn't be afraid. Americans everywhere are hungry for change, and waiting for someone to show them where change will come from.

On June 9th, if you organize a Walk for Change event, that change will come from your community, and the person showing the way will be you.

Thank you.

✖

Barack Obama

P.S. – As you read this, people across the country are planning their events using the My.BarackObama.com tools. If you're not ready to host your own walk, there may already be one in your community that you can join. Use our interactive map to search for one near you:

<http://my.barackobama.com/walkforchange>

✖



When Barack was Barry Obama ABC News via Yahoo! News - Apr 27 4:33 PM



Before He Was Barack ABC News via Yahoo! News - Apr 26 2:04 PM



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama and Miracles (2007-05-08 07:53)

Here's a great blog from Stacy Parker Aab of the Huffington Post:

Sen. Obama Spoke of Miracles, and I Hope Detroit Listened

Today, Sen. Barack Obama addressed Detroit business leaders – and anyone else who could snag a ticket to the Detroit Economic Club's sold-out luncheon. I was the guest of my friend Rick. Thank goodness, because I don't usually have the bank (or well, the desire) to roll with this kind of crowd!

I went in with reduced expectations. While deathly serious, I feared that a speech tailored to the auto industry might be deathly boring. Also, I know that the Senator is pacing himself; we wouldn't see the Glorious Obama of the convention. I didn't want to be one of those disappointed people I've read about, folks who attend small town-halls in Iowa and expect to be blown away, and instead get a man whose perfectly attuned for the occasion: serious, present, wonky, but not slam-dunking shots when bank shots will do.

Let me say this another way: anyone who expects Sen. Obama to give "I Have a Dream" speeches every-day needs to rethink their expectations.

If you read coverage of the speech, you'll read about his call to increase fuel efficiency, and more importantly, his call to radically diminish our dependency on fossil fuels. These words on paper might have seemed very mild, but in a room full of Detroit business and union leaders, they came off as strong, sober, and instructional.

I listened to his policy prescriptions. I will leave it to others better studied to debate their individual merits. I just know that I found myself not just moved, but electrified, when he spoke of the big picture; that we as Americans need to be pushed towards a higher calling, and now is the time. The message he had for us was this: it's time not just for another Detroit miracle, but for an American miracle.

He took us back to WWII. He spoke of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and how he dared to attempt to do something that even his closest advisers warned might be impossible: retool American factories to create the great war machine. He spoke of how Detroit was central to this American Miracle. And now, if we're going to "end the tyranny of oil" in our lifetime, Detroit must be a miraculous city once more.

And as the Senator later added: "expensive to do is not an excuse not to do."

Later, he spoke of President Bush, and how after 9-11, Americans ached to be called to sacrifice, to be moved to work together towards a common goal (beyond shopping and stockpiling duct tape).

I can already feel some of you thinking, well, what's so special about this rhetoric. Well, nothing. The magic wasn't in the speech. The magic was in the man making the speech. Any politician can say these things. Many of them try to move us. Many of them fail. Sen. Obama succeeded because of something that doesn't show up in a speech text – his formidable personal power, the sense conveyed that he believes fully what he's saying, and if elected president, he would push us to make these hard sacrifices that would lead all of us to a greater good.

I left excited. I left thinking that I finally witnessed Sen. Barack's magic in the flesh. But after further thought, I don't think it was magic at all. It was conviction. He came into that room like a man-in-charge. Not a blowhard "decider," but a man-in-charge with wisdom, who had strong ideas and ideals and the endurance to keep pushing and to enlist us, the public, as his infantry, to make these changes happen on the ground.

So yes, Sen. Obama spoke of miracles. I hope Detroit, and America, were listening.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stacy-parker-aab/sen-obama-spoke-of-mirac_b_47885.html

The Washington Post has a nice article on how a Barack Obama win would help bridge the racial gap. There is the now-recurring comparison to golfing legend Tiger Woods.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack speaks about Kansas disaster (2007-05-08 21:16)



Barack Obama noted that the National Guard did not have sufficient equipment to deal adequately with the tornado disaster in Kansas. Because of the ill-conceived war in Iraq, the all-volunteer Army and National Guard have been stretched thin.

In the Wichita Eagle, the senator said:

Governor Sebelius was right to question the diversion of the Guard's resources and personnel overseas. There's no question that this has undercut our emergency preparedness and our homeland security...

We cannot afford to learn a lesson about unmet needs each time a disaster strikes. The National Guard is the essential mechanism through which states prepare for and respond to emergencies. If your administration chooses to divert state resources to assist the military overseas, this gap should be filled in order to protect Americans at home."

Michelle speaks of husband's 'moral compass'

Michelle Obama drew crowds larger than some other candidates are her first solo visit to New Hampshire. There she mentioned that her husband has the type of experience that makes a difference, "'I know that experience is important but experience without the sort of moral compass is not enough."

She made specific mention of her husband's experience as a community organizer, civil rights lawyer, law professor and state lawmaker.

Unlike many other Ivy League lawyers including some running in the primary, Obama did not go to work for corporate America but chose to work as a street level organizer for meager pay.



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Conservatives focusing their sights on Obama (2007-05-09 08:23)

The conservative newsmag.com, which has previously published works attacking Bill and Hillary Clinton, will be releasing a report on Oprah Winfrey's influence on the Barack Obama race in their new print edition.

X Newsmag.com did commission a reputable polling firm, Zogby, to conduct a survey on Oprah's political influence apparently finding that the TV host has plenty of clout. She is described as the "most influential woman in America." Elsewhere, Ann Coulter said that a Newsweek poll showing Barack Obama leading all Republican candidates and by a wider margins than other Democrats as somehow aiding al-Qaeda. She did not explain her remarks. Rush Limbaugh has also launched a satire against Obama using the "Magic Negro" theme. These efforts help strengthen the view that Republicans fear Obama more than any other Democratic contender.



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Barack Obama moves against climate change (2007-05-09 08:40)

Barack Obama is showing leadership on environmental and energy issues by introducing the bipartisan Fuel Economy Reform Act (S.767) today.

The bill requires automobile manufacturers to make significant annual improvements in fuel efficiency as much as 4 percent annually over an extended period.

May 8, 2007 – WASHINGTON, DC – A bill sponsored by Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and a bipartisan group of Senators that would increase fuel economy standards provided the basis for legislation that passed the Senate Commerce Committee today. CAFE standards have not been increased for over twenty years.

“As the threat posed by climate change becomes more and more imminent, inaction is no longer an acceptable course,” said Senator Obama. “I commend Chairman Inouye and members of the Commerce Committee for breaking the logjam and moving us closer to raising fuel economy standards. We have the technology available to implement these changes today, now we just need the willpower to pass them.”

Provisions from S. 767, the bipartisan Fuel Economy Reform Act introduced by Senators Obama, Lugar, Biden, Specter, Bingaman, and Smith, were included in the bill approved by the Commerce Committee today. The legislation requires automakers to achieve significant annual improvements in fuel economy. The legislation also authorizes the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration to establish different standards for different types of cars, providing increased flexibility to automakers and leveling the playing field for the US companies that sell a broader mix of vehicles than their foreign competitors.

Senator Obama has proposed increasing fuel economy standards by 4 % annually as the long-term goal. Obama has also committed to improving the health of the domestic auto industry, by providing assistance for legacy health care costs, as it produces more efficient automobiles.

“I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure that NHTSA discretion is carefully defined to ensure that we achieve the maximum fuel economy possible,” added Obama. “We must also address the key transition concerns of autoworkers by sustaining existing protections and establishing retooling incentives.”

Source: Senator Barack Obama



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama on Stephanopoulos (2007-05-09 19:25)

Barack Obama will be ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos and ABCNews.com is inviting users to submit video questions to the senator:

Welcome to the Be Seen, Be Heard Campaign 2008 Headquarters! We want you to talk to the candidates and voice your opinion.

Use your webcam, cell cam or camcorder to record your question for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. George Stephanopoulos may choose your question and put it to Mr. Obama in his interview. Talk back to the candidates and send your VIDEO to be part of ABC News' campaign coverage!

Upload your video below or send your cell phone video to us at seenand-heard@abcnews.go.com.

Watch this video to see how easy it is to send in your video submission [Click here](#). If you have further questions, view the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) here.

****NOTE:** Please wait until you see the confirmation page before clicking out of this window to make sure your video fully uploads. This may take several minutes. **

Michelle Obama in action



Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, campaigns for her husband at a house party, Monday, May 7, 2007, in Windham, N.H. (AP Photo/Jim Cole via Yahoo News)



Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, campaigns for her husband at a town-hall style meeting in Bedford, N.H., Monday, May 7, 2007. (AP Photo/Jim Cole via Yahoo News)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Ten Weirdest Obama-theses (2007-05-10 08:21)

Obama-theses are Obama hypotheses (hypotheses is the plural of hypothesis).

I've avoided the most offensive theories, so you can imagine. In no particular order of weirdness or wackiness:

Barack is a 'secret Muslim,' trained at fundamentalist madrassa schools in Indonesia who will convert America to Islam after taking office.

Related to the previous hypothesis, Barack is a "Manchurian Candidate," but replacing "Manchurian" with "Mussulman." He doesn't know that he has been programmed (brainwashed) to subconsciously activate as a Muslim upon election when he will force Britney Spears to wear the full face veil, etc. He now foolishly thinks that he is an UCC Afrocentric Christian.

Barack Obama is the Messiah. Not a messiah in an allegorical sense but the Son of Man, al-Mahdi, Neo, Second Coming kind of Messiah with capital "M."





Rather than the Messiah, Barack is the Antichrist. One website claims with reference to the name Barack Hussein Obama: "A simple [thought] play on these words will generate *Barack=Iraq*, *Hussein=Saddam (Hussein)*, *Obama=Osama (Bin Laden)*. And further: "...according to Overture.com (the parent of the Yahoo search engine) Barack Obama is the 9th most popular search incorporating the keyword "antichrist."

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As communist infiltrator. "The recent homage to director Pier Paolo Pasolini's body of work at the Vancouver Film Festival included the Marxist/Catholic/homosexual genius' prophecy that the ultimate leader of the Third World will be an African-American. Voila! Enter Senator Obama."

Barack as the "Magic Negro." Suddenly in 2007, white Americans must elect a half-black man to compensate for "white guilt" over slavery and decades of depriving African American thespians by acting in black-face.

Somewhat related to the previous hypothesis is the "Safe Negro" theory. In this case, Barack acts against African American interests by proving that racism doesn't exist when a black man is elected to the highest office in the land. Once elected, Obama will seek to dismantle affirmative action and deport Haitians from New York City.

Barack as black separatist. Upon election, Obama will create a government for the blacks, by the blacks, and of the blacks.

It would be surprising if I could not find at least one person who thought Obama was an extraterrestrial (notice his ears). I did find those who questioned whether Barack was a member of a secret society. That could signal a connection with the Freemasons and Annunaki, reptilian beings from Mesopotamian lore often thought to have outer space origin. Of course, membership in secret societies always opens the possibility of connection with the Illuminati and the worldwide Jewish conspiracy [gasp].

Obama is not really a black man but a white man from Scotland who through reconstructive surgery and genetic alteration appears as an African American. He thought up the ruse to help him break the ice with Michelle.

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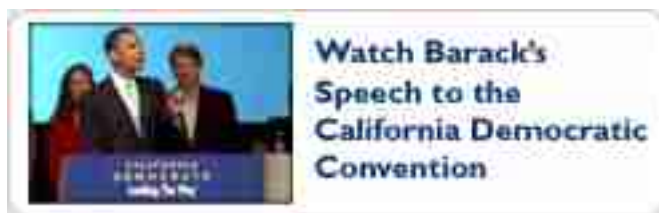
Michelle sends out first fundraising letter (2007-05-10 18:56)

Michelle Obama reportedly sent out her first fundraising letter to Women for Obama bringing up more comments about the Barack-Michelle relationship.

Michelle often states how she plays the role of 'earth-level repositioner' to Barack. These comments have led to some criticism including Maureen Dowd characterizing them as "emasculating."

How old-fashioned. The last president to have a strong wife was Bill Clinton. It was partly because of his relationship with his wife that Clinton was sometimes characterized as the first black President of the United States.

Let's hope Michelle Obama will be the first black First Lady of the United States.



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Barack defends calls on Grassley to override veto (2007-05-11 06:47)

Sen. Barack Obama defended his calls on Sen. Charles Grassley to override the Iraq veto after Grassley said Obama's efforts were "not Senatorial."

"This isn't about Washington etiquette, it's about bringing our troops home," said Obama. "This is how real change happens in America. This isn't symbolic, this is real."

"It's already working," said Obama, who also urged voters in Louisiana and Virginia to pressure their elected leaders. "That's why 11 Republican Congressmen went to the White House yesterday and demanded honesty and accountability from the president on Iraq."

Two Missouri Representatives to endorse Obama

Reps. William Lacy Clay and Russ Carnahan plan to announce their endorsements of Barack Obama today when the candidate comes to the city for two fundraisers.

"Barack Obama shares my values and he understands our community," Clay said. "His bold, positive ideas can have a real impact on closing disparities in health care, home ownership, academic achievement and equal opportunity."

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Obama on fuel and medicine (2007-05-11 14:29)

Here is the video of Barack Obama speaking before the Detroit Economic Club about energy policy, climate change and fuel efficiency. He notes particularly how Japan was building fuel economy vehicles for the future at a time when Detroit was still concentrating of big, fast gas-guzzlers.

[EMBED]

Barack spoke today at a senior citizen center in Iowa where he promised to go after subsidies for private Medicare programs. He said cuts to those subsidies could provide up to \$150 billion over the next ten years to strengthen the public system and lower prescription drug prices.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Religious leaders, Newark mayor endorse Barack (2007-05-11 18:37)

Religious leaders from Chicago's South Side came together to voice support for Barack Obama. Video from the event can be seen below.

[EMBED]

Mayor Cory Booker of Newark, New Jersey endorsed Barack Friday. "I think Obama is such a strong candidate," Booker said. "He has a tremendous sort of ability. He is a very rare and unique voice."

Obama will attend three fundraisers in New Jersey including one at Princeton University, where his wife Michelle graduated.

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Barack a hit in KC, sister launches official Hawai'i campaign (2007-05-13 07:43)

Barack Obama fired up a crowd of 3,000 supporters in Kansas City yesterday urging them to pressure at least 16 senators into overriding the Iraq War veto.

He also called on Democrats to help elect a veto-proof Congress in 2008.

Also yesterday, Illinois Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. addressed Black Democrats at the Alabama State Convention calling Obama's possible election "the most significant event in the history of the U.S." Jackson formally endorsed Obama during that speech.

Barack's sister steps up campaign efforts

Maya Soetoro-Ng, Barack Obama's sister in Hawai'i, appeared at Kawananakoa Middle School Saturday morning officially launching the independent statewide effort for the senator.

A message from Obama said that Hawai'i offered "a fabulous model for the kind of America I hope this campaign will bring about."

Barack will make a traditional visit to Hawai'i during the winter when his supporters will plan to organize a campaign rally.

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Maya Soetoro-Ng of Honolulu, half sister of presidential candidate Barak Obama, with her husband, Konrad Ng, and their daughter Suhaila, 2, after meeting with supporters of her brother in Honolulu, Saturday, May 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Lucy Pemoni via Yahoo News)

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Barack's sister fondly recalls him (2007-05-13 08:54)

Here is a nice AP story from Barack's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng about growing up with her brother.

Obama's sister recalls him fondly Staff and agencies

12 May, 2007

By BRIAN CHARLTON, Associated Press Writer 2 minutes ago HONOLULU - M, ,), recalled that he could be "bossy" but was never mean to his little sister. "She embraced everybody," said Soetoro-Ng, 36. "There was so much good in her that there wasn't any room for smallness or meanness or violence." Soetoro-Ng, who was joined by her husband Konrad Ng and their 2-year-old daughter, Suhaila, said they planned to be active in the islands and would campaign on the U.S. mainland if needed in support of her brother's run for president. After Obama's mother divorced Barack Obama Sr., she married Lolo Soetoro and moved to Indonesia, where she gave birth to Maya. They later moved to Honolulu, where Obama was being looked after by his grandparents. "We both love a good story that captures the human experience in all of its complexities," said Soetoro-Ng, who now teaches history at the private LaPietra Hawaii School for Girls and teaches night classes at the University of Hawaii. Soetoro-Ng read a letter from Obama that said, "Hawaii is a fabulous model for the kind of America I hope this campaign will bring about, a place where different cultures can come together in harmony and a place that rises above the barriers that might divide us." "He's always wrestled with difficult questions," Soetoro-Ng said. "Part of his gift is he will grapple with these childhood questions until he finds answers that will work for him. It's important that he's not afraid of these more difficult questions."

✖ Maya Soetoro-Ng of Honolulu, half sister of presidential candidate Barack Obama, listens to reporters' questions after speaking to supporters of her brother at Kawanānākoa Middle School in Honolulu, Saturday, May 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Lucy Pemoni via Yahoo News.)

✖ Maya Soetoro-Ng of Honolulu, half sister of presidential candidate Barack Obama, poses with her husband, Konrad Ng, and their daughter Suhaila, 2, after meeting with supporters of her brother in Honolulu, Saturday, May 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Lucy Pemoni)

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maff (2007-05-13 19:10:00)

<http://www.thehawaiiichannel.com/politics/13310419/detail.html>

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/atheistrefuge/messages?msg=1851.6>

Senator Obama sends Mother's Day on official blog (2007-05-13 14:44)

For the first time, I think, Barack Obama himself wrote a blog entry into the official campaign blog. Here's is the Mother's Day message:

I would not be who I am without the mothers in my life.

My own mother, Ann Dunham, was the kindest, most generous spirit I have ever known, and what is best in me, I owe to her. My grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, loved my mother and me so completely that she rejected the bigotry that might have torn other families apart, embraced my parents' marriage, and helped raise me. Today, there is another mother in my life – the mother of my two lovely daughters – my wife Michelle, a woman who radiates beauty, strength, and integrity, and continues to make me a better person.

But our mothers deserve more than just a holiday. So on this Mother's Day, let's rededicate ourselves to lifting those burdens that make the difficult job of raising children that much harder. Let's care for them when they get sick. Let's make sure they're getting treated fairly at work. And when their working days are over, let's make sure they can retire with dignity and financial security. And let's also remember those mothers who can't be with their families today because either they or their loved ones are serving our country.

In the end, this campaign is all about doing what my mother taught me to do when I was growing up – to keep working until the world as it is and the world as it should be are one and the same.

Happy Mother's Day.

Barack

Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) kisses his wife Michelle after the South Carolina Democratic party's presidential candidates debate at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, April 26, 2007. (Jim Young/Reuters via Yahoo News)

Barack's mother had a huge impact

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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The executive experience question and Barack Obama (2007-05-14 07:46)



Play

On the Trail with Barack **Obama**

ABC News via Yahoo! News - May 13 1:38 PM

Watch the video above of George Stephanopoulos's interview with Barack Obama. Stephanopoulos asks Obama about the question of executive experience.

The executive experience is a bit different from that of experience in general. It is based mainly on historical precedent. Nearly all previous presidents have had either some experience in the executive branch or some experience in the military.

In substance, the amount of experience either in the executive or military might be very limited though. For example, Abraham Lincoln, the president that Barack likes to compare himself with the most, had no executive experience.

Lincoln's political career closely matched that of Obama's. Lincoln did have limited military experience serving as a captain with the militia during the Blackhawk War, although not on the battlefield. He went on to lead the country during the bloodiest war in its history, and what may be one of its most decisive moments.

Another president often compared to Obama, John F. Kennedy, also lacked experience in executive government. He did serve for a little over three years in the Navy as a patrol boat commander during World War II, but only after his father used his influence to get him accepted. Kennedy had been rejected by the U.S. Army when he tried to enlist because of a bad back.

Certainly, one could question whether the previous experience of these leaders prepared them for the highest executive office in the United States.

Lincoln, who was known as the "Honest Abe" and the "Rail-Splitter" defeated former New York governor and U.S. Secretary of State William Henry Seward, Sr. and former Ohio governor Salmon Portland Chase in the Republican primary. He became the first Republican president by defeating among others, Southern Democrat John Cabell Breckinridge, a former U.S. Vice President, Confederate general and Confederate Secretary of War.

In the current election, none of the Democratic front-runners has executive or military experience. Bill Richardson serves as Governor of New Mexico and Dennis Kucinich is a former mayor.

Of the Republican front-runners, Rudy Giuliani is a former mayor while John McCain has command military experience and Mitt Romney is a former governor.

However, former mayors without other more significant military or executive experience don't really have historical precedent behind them either.

About the closest thing to executive experience for Barack Obama is his work as a community organizer.

It's a new thing for sure, but Barack will be a first in many ways. His community organizing background is what makes him attractive to many people.

But can Barack be decisive?

We should remember that although most presidents had some type of military or elected/appointed executive experience it most often was not of the type that prepares one to become President of the United States.

When then-Senator John F. Kennedy defeated then-Vice President Richard Nixon, we have to say that executive experience wasn't the deciding factor. Voters can decide on decision-making capabilities using factors other than past experience.

Leadership often involves charisma. The greatest leaders in history were reputed for their charisma. Obama has charisma.

Decisiveness can be seen in the manner in which a candidate behaves in head-to-head debates, on tough issues and during the grueling portions of the campaign.

Much has been made of Obama's answer to the question on a terrorist attack during the South Carolina debate, but in fact his reply was the most cool-headed and methodical of them all.

Rather than responding with the expected emotional reaction, Obama said first he would respond to the victims of the attack, the people who are already in need. Then, he would seek to secure the nation against any possible further attack. After that, he would first seek to identify and target those who carried out the attack, not simply bomb the capitals of Iran, Syria or Libya for the sake of getting your licks in.

The idea is to stop the terrorists and not pile skulls to the sky thinking this will deter further attacks. The terrorists know that unfocused retaliation against super-generalized "enemies" only helps their cause. Look at what happened in Iraq.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama names New Hampshire co-chairs (2007-05-14 21:52)

Lobbyist Jim Demers, State Senator Martha Fuller Clark, activist Mary Rauh, and adviser to governors Ned Helms were all named as New Hampshire co-chairs for Obama on Monday in the state hosting the nation's first primary.

The announcement comes ahead of a statewide canvassing effort in New Hampshire. Obama also received today the endorsement of Jersey City Mayor Jerrimiah Healy to go along with his previous endorsement by Newark Mayor Cory Booker.

According to reports, Obama gave an impressive speech in Kansas City over the weekend.

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Barack will announce new student loan proposal (2007-05-15 08:47)

Barack Obama will announce a new student loan plan today as part of his program to make college more affordable. Obama wants to cut federal subsidies to banks designed to ensure a profit for the private institutions and instead channel this money into more loans. Loans made from banks and those obtained directly from the Education Department charge the same interest and fees.

Obama fares well in South Carolina poll

Although one could get seasick from following polls this early, the Obama camp did receive some heartening news from South Carolina.

An InsiderAdvantage and Majority Opinion shows Senator Obama leads Democrats with 31 percent of the vote, ahead of Senator Clinton's 27 percent and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards' 16 percent. About 21 percent of voters still undecided among the Democrats in South Carolina.

Indeed, it's highly likely in all other polls that don't include an "Undecided" category, that many of the respondents will sway back and forth before election time.

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16 votes to end the war (2007-05-15 09:52)

David Plouffe, campaign manager for Obama for America, sent out an appeal today asking supporters to apply more pressure on the Senate, which needs 16 more votes to override President Bush's veto of the Iraq War bill.

Dear Paul,

 Barack has been traveling across the country asking people to speak out and let their Senators know that it's time to end the Iraq war.

One Republican colleague has already called this unsenatorial. But this isn't about Washington etiquette, it's about bringing our troops home.

This isn't a game. We need just 16 additional votes to override the president's veto and bring to a close this sad chapter in American history.

It's going to take some convincing, but Senators need to hear from people in their states that they can join us to bring a responsible end to the war.

That's where you come in. In your state, an incumbent Senator who voted against ending the war will face a re-election battle in 2008. They will have to make clear very soon whether they will continue to block efforts to bring the troops home.

Will you speak out now and add your voice to the growing public pressure to end the war?

Link

With one signature, George Bush could have ended this war. Instead, he vetoed the legislation, ignoring the reality on the ground in Iraq yet again.

But that will not be the last word if the American people have anything to say about it. In the Senate, we need just 16 additional votes to override the veto and end the Iraq war.

This isn't the time to trust the president to do the right thing. It's time to end this war, and across the country people need to speak out and let their Senators know.

No one of us can do it alone, and it's not going to happen tomorrow. But a movement to create the kind of change we need starts with you.

Thank you,
David

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America

The link above directs them to a form where they can send a message to one of the Republican senators.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama will cut Iraq War funding (2007-05-15 15:43)

Senator Barack Obama publicly expressed support for a cutoff of Iraq War funding if Congress does not override Bush's veto of the war bill.

Almost simultaneously, Senator Hillary Clinton also stated that she would vote for a cutoff to bring the Iraq War to a close.

These moves put tremendous pressure on Republicans to agree to a smooth redeployment of troops from Iraq.

Obama still the only to release tax records

So far, Barack Obama is the only candidate that has turned over his tax returns for public scrutiny. However, Senator Chris Dodd stated on Tuesday that he too will release his tax records.

Hillary Clinton and a number of other candidates filed extensions Tuesday asking for more time in disclosing personal finances for presidential candidates.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack leads call for veto override (2007-05-16 09:17)

Senator Barack Obama continued to rally supporters for a veto-proof majority Iraq War bill.

Lately, Obama spoke on the subject in St. Louis:

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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baracktivor (2007-05-16 18:19)

I've designed a page to help Barack Obama supporters with netroots campaigning. The "beta" version can be found at:

baracktivor

In the left-hand column are two modules containing breaking news and blogs taken from Yahoo Pipes.

At the top is a Google search engine using my AdSense account, so maybe I can pay for the hosting service. To the right of the search engine is a module containing a YouTube feed of videos with the Barack Obama tag. Users can rate up good videos so they appear higher in the results page.

In the center is a viewer that can be used for various purposes. There is an email program for sending messages to major media outlets and also to elected officials.

Clicking on the button in the upper-right hand corner of each module produces either a full-browser view or goes back to the original size if in full-screen mode.

In the bottom right-hand corner of each module is a drag resize button that works ok with Internet Explorer but still has problems with Mozilla (Firefox and Netscape) browsers.

This is a work-in-progress that I hope will be useful come crunch time in helping people counter the spin and mudslinging that is sure to come.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-05-17 07:49)

Some blogs today have attacked candidate Barack Obama's contentions this morning on an MSNBC interview where he contrasted his views on the war with Hillary Clinton's.

The most common criticism is that Barack and Hillary have similar voting records on the Iraq War in the U.S. Senate. What makes this criticism unfair is that firstly it has been much more popular to have an anti-war stance in the last few years.

When Obama came out against the war in 2002, the Democratic leadership was nearly lockstep in favor of the war. I can remember people saying it would be political suicide except for those in the "safest" districts to voice opposition, especially those looking for higher office.

Obama though said back then that once in the fighting it would be very difficult to get out. He has always supported giving troops what they need to accomplish their job as safely as possible.

So the fact that he has voted for funding is not inconsistent with what he has been saying all along.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Memories and Quote of the Day (2007-05-17 14:33)

Replying to a question on MSNBC this morning on whether he would consider Oprah Winfrey as a running mate, Sen. Barack Obama said:

"I think Oprah is far more powerful than a vice president. I think that would be a demotion for her."

In another interesting bit of information, when asked, along with 14 other presidential candidates what item reminded him most of where he came from, Obama mentioned a photograph of Oahu in his Senate office.

The pictures shows an area on the South Shore of Oahu with waves crashing off a cliff near where the ashes of his mother were scattered.

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Barack Obama leads in staff diversity (2007-05-18 07:20)

Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have the most minorities and women among their campaign staff.

Obama has six minorities and six women among its top 14 top staff members. Obama's political and policy directors are black, he has a Hispanic national field director, and his finance director is a woman. One of his pollsters is black.

The senator is also known to have one of the Senate's most diverse staffs.

Barack closes in on Hillary in New Hampshire, Edwards in Iowa

The new Zogby state polls show that Barack Obama has closed to a statistical tie with Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire and John Edwards in Iowa trailing both by just three points.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-05-18 12:53)

Barack Obama supporters are preparing to donate some shoe-leather to the campaign when they hit the streets for the first nationwide canvassing

Barack supporters prepare to pound the pavement (2007-05-18 13:33)

Obama supporters will contribute some shoe leather on June 9 when the nationwide canvassing event takes place. As a prelude, the campaign will hold a trial run in New Hampshire over the weekend. Campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this letter to supporters urging them to organize their own walks for Obama:

✖ Real change starts when politics gets local, and in just over a week since we announced the June 9th Walk for Change, over 800 neighborhood walks have been planned in communities across the country.

Is there one near you?

We've built an interactive map of the events planned so far to help you find out:

<http://my.barackobama.com/walkforchange>

If there's no neighborhood walk near you yet, you can be the one to step up and take the lead in your community. It's not too late to plan your own Walk for Change canvass.

What does it mean to be a Walk for Change organizer?

It means you'll lead a group of supporters going door to door on Saturday, June 9th, introducing people to Barack Obama .

We'll mail you the literature to hand out and offer support as you plan your event. We've even built an online resource center to help answer your questions right away.

If you're ready to take the leap and lead your own neighborhood walk, just click here to get started:

<http://my.barackobama.com/walkforchange>

No presidential campaign has ever attempted a nationwide mobilization on this scale at this early stage.

But because of the movement that has risen up to drive this campaign, we have a unique opportunity to take our message of hope and community to hundreds of thousands of people in a single afternoon.

It's up to all of us to take responsibility for building this movement locally, and June 9th is the day you can be the face of this campaign in your community.

Thank you,

✖

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America

P.S. – If you can't canvass on June 9th, you can still be part of the nationwide Walk for Change. You can make certain that everyone walking that Saturday afternoon is equipped with all the supplies they need to bring Barack Obama 's message of hope face-to-face, person-to-person by making a donation now. Please donate now to help make June 9th a success:

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Sacramento Walks for Change (2007-05-18 21:52)

Here's a YouTube video I prepared highlighting some of Sacramento for Obama's preparations for the Walk for Change on June 9.

There's a little slide show at the end that I used to practice for making future Obama commercials.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eh3LoWr7IBQ>

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Volunteers knock on doors for Barack in New Hampshire (2007-05-19 11:31)

Despite the chilly and wet weather, hundreds of Barack Obama supporters engaged in an unusually early voter canvas in New Hampshire Saturday.

Some 554 supporters, a large number for this primary state, targeted six strongly Democratic neighborhoods going door to door with Obama's message.

The campaign also prepares to hold the first Camp Obama training sessions at the Chicago headquarters. The effort will introduce young volunteers to grassroots campaigning including phone banking and precinct walking.

Speaking to students at a New Hampshire high school Saturday that they needed to build character after graduting.

"There's often an assumption on days like today that growing up is purely a function of age, that becoming an adult is an inevitable progression that can be measured by a series of milestones _ college graduation or your first job or the first time you throw a party where you also serve food," Obama said.

"And yet, maturity does not come from any one occasion. It emerges as a quality of character."

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Barack wins Howard County straw poll (2007-05-20 09:37)

Senator Barack Obama narrowly defeated fellow Sen. Hillary Clinton in a Howard County, Maryland straw poll of active Democrats.

The poll was conducted at the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner Thursday. Obama got 65 votes to Clinton's 61 and 56 for former Sen. John Edwards.

Last night, Obama attended big fundraisers by hedge fund mogul Paul Tudor Jones II and Allan Houston, the highest paid player in New York Knicks history.

The Houston dinner attracted about 150 people with tickets ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,300. The Jones fundraiser had 300 guests paying a minimum of \$2,300.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack is not a corporate (2007-05-20 16:34)

Michelle Obama praises husband on Good Morning America (2007-05-20 16:57)

In a two-part interview that begins on Tuesday, Michelle Obama talks about her husband's candidacy on "Good Morning America."

"I think that the American people ... are ready to have somebody that they can believe in and that they can connect to," Obama tells anchor Robin Roberts. "And I think that if Barack does what he's supposed to do and this campaign is ... run well, and he can be clear and articulate in his message, ... he'll be the next president of the United States and ... we will be swearing him in in '08."

"This [is a] rare opportunity where spirit, vision, hope, uniqueness, experience combine in this one individual at this point in time," she continued. "It's his time."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Will Barack win? (2007-05-21 06:25)

A new Rasmussen poll asks who people think will win rather than the usual who they will vote for.

For the fourth time in five weeks, a national Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of Likely Democratic Primary Voters shows Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama within two points of each other. This week, it's Clinton 35 % Obama 33 %. Former Senator John Edwards is in third place with 14 % support. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson is a distant fourth at 3 %.

http://rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/49_say_obama_may_be_next_president

Also, the statistic I think is more important now than the head-to-head match-ups is favorable ratings:

Favorable/Unfavorable

Barack Obama 55 %/ 37 %

John Edwards 55 % / 42 %

Hillary Clinton 50 % / 49 %

Unfortunately, Rasmussen doesn't have favorable/unfavorable ratings among just Democratic voters.

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(2007-05-21 06:25)

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John Edwards 55 % / 42 %

Hillary Clinton 50 % / 49 %

Unfortunately, Rasmussen doesn't have favorable/unfavorable ratings among just Democratic voters.

Barack on bundling (2007-05-21 08:02)

Here's an excellent op-ed piece by Barack Obama on the practice of bundling.

He supports full disclosure by lobbyists who bundle, and the campaign refuses to accept money bundled by lobbyists. Obama also discloses all data on money bundled by anyone including corporate executives.

Note that not all money bundled by corporate leaders necessarily represents any particular interest or corporation. Often bundlers simply invite all of their wealthy friends to their fundraisers. Some of these friends may have conflicting interests.

Also, not every contributor from a corporation has necessarily been "bundled" by representatives of a corporation. Contributors who work for a big auto manufacturer, for example, may be workers who also belong to the union. They may have very different views on issues that a contributor from the same corporation who works as an executive.

The problem with bundling money

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-oped0521obamamay21,1,3286>

291.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed

By Barack Obama. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) is a candidate for president of the United States

Published May 21, 2007

When it comes to reforming Washington and limiting the power of special interests, a man who died more than 60 years ago had exactly the right idea. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman."

Brandeis was a progressive responding to the excesses of the Gilded Age. Nearly a century later, we find Washington in need of a lot of sunlight and disinfectant.

Today, powerful special interests run Washington. The Republican Party's infamous "K Street Project" put lobbyists at the center of policymaking and political fundraising. The drug and insurance industries alone have spent more than \$1 billion on lobbying and campaign contributions in the last 10 years. And, for the most part, they have achieved the results they wanted. It's no wonder that, last November, Americans cast a strong vote for change.

In response, Democrats in the House and Senate, with significant Republican support, have adopted new restrictions on the power of lobbyists. But one significant reform remains undone: shedding sunlight on the practice of "bundling" campaign contributions.

Under current campaign-finance rules, an individual lobbyist is limited to writing a personal check for a maximum of \$2,300. But that's where the bundling starts. A lobbyist can collect check after check from other individuals and deliver the entire bundle to a candidate for office. Sometimes those stacks contain \$20,000, \$100,000 or even \$250,000. As the rules stand today, lobbyists have to only report their own contributions – not the money they've raised from others. These lobbyists are delivering millions in bundled contributions to the very politicians from whom they are seeking favorable votes or legislation. That shouldn't remain a secret. The public has a right to know.

It is no coincidence that the best bundlers are often granted the greatest access, and access is power in Washington. When the bundlers are lobbyists, we must require full disclosure because they and their clients have a financial stake in the outcome of specific legislation. That gets in the way of public officials doing the business of the people – all of the people, not just a few.

We can't stop individual lobbyists from raising money. But we certainly can make it clear to the public whom they are raising it for – and from. This will help clarify the link between campaign cash and decisions made in Washington.

The Senate passed legislation last year that would make lobbyists disclose how much they bundle and whom they bundle it from. It would require quarterly reporting of all contributions that a lobbyist collected or arranged that total more than \$200 in a calendar year. This includes not only campaign contributions, but also contributions to

presidential libraries, inaugural committees and lawmakers' charities. The law doesn't call for a complete halt in bundling. It just calls on lobbyists who have a stake in the outcome of legislation to disclose that information to the public.

The House is about to vote on a similar measure. Some members of Congress – some in my own party – claim that this law is too tough. They say it puts us at a fundraising disadvantage just at the moment we've regained control of the House and Senate. But we shouldn't forget how Democrats won a congressional majority – by promising sweeping ethics reform to change Washington and reduce the power of special interests. We need to deliver.

If an individual is lobbying for the big drug companies, we need to know if he or she is bundling hundreds of thousands of dollars for those committee members. If a lobbyist works for the oil industry, we need to know if he was a Bush Pioneer. And if a defense contractor is raising lots of money for Armed Services Committee members, we need to know that too.

To set an example in the 2008 presidential election, I am refusing to accept campaign contributions from registered lobbyists, political-action committees, and I won't take contributions bundled by lobbyists. I'm also reporting any contributions that are bundled – whether it's from a small-town doctor or a chief executive officer. If we can open up the system and pull aside the curtain of secrecy, then we might be able to start changing the way Washington works.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Same old Barack (2007-05-21 18:06)

Here are a couple of YouTube videos worth checking out:

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Former gov. and ambassador Mabus endorses Obama (2007-05-22 11:22)

Former Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus is not only endorsing Barack Obama, he's joining the campaign as a volunteer adviser on Middle East issues.

Mabus was U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the Clinton administration.

The former governor said his endorsing Obama was about supporting someone rather than opposing anyone when asked why he did not back Hillary Clinton.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Michelle Obama on GMA (2007-05-22 17:06)

Michelle Obama today resigned from her position as director of Treehouse Foods, a supplier of the controversial Wal-Mart company. Obama said increased demands on her time prompted her resignation.

Here is a YouTube video of Michelle's interview on Good Morning America today. The second part of the interview will air tomorrow morning.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama bags two successful fundraisers (2007-05-23 07:44)

Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign raised at least \$750,000 in recent Greenwich fundraisers, and a Philadelphia kickoff concert attracted about 2,000 people at \$50 per person (\$25 for students).

Obama also had three private large donor fundraisers while in Philadelphia.

The next deadline for fundraising is at the end of June when campaigns will again prepare to file statements for contributions received during the second quarter of this year.

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Barack Obama will announce health care plan in Iowa City (2007-05-23 12:13)

Barack Obama announced he will unveil specifics on his health care plan in a speech on May 29 in Iowa City.

According to Obama spokesperson Karen Kornbluh the plan had three main facets: (1) a national pool for those that

don't have health insurance, with subsidies going to those who can't afford the group rates; (2) better preventive care and technology to reduce paperwork and costs; and (3) catastrophic insurance to help businesses and families avoid bankruptcy and reduce premiums.

Obama will also make campaign trips to Nevada where he will attend rallies in Las Vegas and Reno at the end of May. Hillary Clinton attracted a large crowd at a rally in Reno. Nevada is one of four early voting states along with Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

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Ted Sorensen on his support for Barack Obama (2007-05-23 21:11)

Barack Obama filled in staff positions for his South Carolina campaign today and also announced the addition of Iowa State Representative Elesha Gayman to his Iowa state team.

Watch the YouTube video below of John F. Kennedy speechwriter Ted Sorensen explaining why he supports Barack Obama.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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The Gore Factor (2007-05-24 06:59)

What would happen if Al Gore entered the presidential race?

Firstly, I think it would be very difficult for Gore to win. He doesn't have any left-over campaign cash or infrastructure so he would basically be starting from scratch. Well, he would at least have the Draft Gore movement to work with, but he would be way behind the other candidates.

The mechanics of this primary with "Super Duper Tuesday" make money a huge factor and we're already nearing the end of the second quarter.

Many important officials have already endorsed candidates and a lot of good staff people are working now for one campaign or another.

Also, a lot of the establishment people that Gore would ordinarily count on are Clinton backers. They supported him last time, but most are now committed to Hillary.

His involvement could cause hard feelings among old friends and that might hurt his effectiveness as a champion of environmentalism should he lose the primary or general election.

If Gore should ultimately win, he would be strongly distracted by the issue of the Iraq War, which the majority of polls show is the most pressing concern of the American public. However, Gore has said that he considers global warming as the number one threat to America and the entire world. So, it could certainly be argued that he is better served to work for his cause from where he is right now.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack votes "no" on Iraq War bill (2007-05-25 08:21)

Sen. Barack Obama might not know it, but his campaign came seriously close to a major upheaval yesterday judging from going-ons in the netroots community.

As everyone awaited the Iraq War bill vote, sites from DailyKos to the Huffington Post and Obama's own official blog were focused on how the senator would vote. The focus on Obama was much more tangible than that for Clinton highlighting the importance of this issue for Barack.

Many Obama supporters publicly declared they had jumped ship even before the bill got out of the House. They thought the senator should have come out earlier against the bill. Even supporters who had steadfastly defended Barack in hostile territory since his campaign started wavered. Some, even on his own blog, declared they would not contribute to the campaign further if Barack voted yes on the bill.

Not that Barack is a one-issue candidate. There were those also who said they would support Obama no matter how he voted on the Iraq War spending bill.

From my own observations those who publicly stood behind the senator no matter what cited his optimism, his ability as a uniter and his generally favorable, positive image both at home and abroad as reasons for their support. For die-hard anti-war folk, it was obvious that anxieties were high. Understandably it has been a long haul for those who have opposed the war from the start and many had put their hopes in Obama.

Such was the tension, that when Obama finally did cast his no vote it was something of an event among the netroots crowd.

Had Barack voted yes, his campaign would certainly have undergone a major transformation. Not that his support would have necessarily dropped. Possibly he could have picked up more "blue dog" conservative Democrats than lost "green dog" progressive Dems.

But the perception of Barack as the leader of the opposition against the Iraq War would have changed. I personally think that John Edwards would have moved into that spot had Barack voted yes.

However, as he voted no, there is a resurgent belief in Barack's anti-war cred even if a few lost faith and went elsewhere. I wouldn't be surprised if his coffers are getting a boost from his actions.

Here are the senator's comments on why he voted no on the Iraq War bill:

"This vote is a choice between validating the same failed policy in Iraq that has cost us so many lives and demanding a new one. And I am demanding a new one."

"We must fund our troops. But we owe them something more. We owe them a clear, prudent plan to relieve them of the burden of policing someone else's civil war. We need a plan to compel the Iraqi people to reach a political accommodation and to take responsibility for their own future. It's time to change course."

"I opposed this war in 2002 precisely because I feared it would lead us to the open-ended occupation in which we find ourselves today."

"This President has led us down a disastrous path and has arrogantly refused to acknowledge the grim reality of this war, which has cost us so dearly in lives and treasure."

"After he vetoed a plan that would have funded the troops and begun to bring them home, this bill represents more of his stubborn refusal to address his failed policy."

"We should not give the President a blank check to continue down this same, disastrous path."

"With my vote today, I am saying to the President that enough is enough. We must negotiate a better plan that funds our troops, signals to the Iraqis that it is time for them to act and that begins to bring our brave servicemen and women home safely and responsibly."

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Barack Obama hits back, Michelle on GMA pt. II (2007-05-25 15:52)

Barack Obama strikes back at John McCain and Mitt Romney after they criticize his "no" vote on the Iraq War bill in the YouTube video below. Also, part two of the Good Morning America interview with Michelle Obama.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama calls for military mental health screenings (2007-05-27 07:03)

Sen. Barack Obama Sunday called for better mental health services for veterans ahead of Memorial day commemorations.

"I believe strongly that there is a sacred trust between this country and those who serve it," Obama told The Associated Press. "That trust begins the moment a service member signs on and lasts the duration of his or her life.

"We're falling far short in addressing the mental health care needs of these heroes, and that's inexcusable." **Chicago fundraiser may be largest yet**

Obama is expected to have his best fundraising night to date in his hometown of Chicago on June 8.

The affair at

Park West theater will have a minimum suggested contribution of \$1,000.

Nine individuals have pledged to raise at least \$1,000 according to a flier for the event.

The Illinois senator has been very effective at locking up support in his home state.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Training the Troops (2007-05-27 10:45)

Analysts far and wide recognize that Hillary Clinton is pulling in more of the establishment political machines, while Barack Obama has greater grassroots support particularly among the young.

The ancient philosopher Sun Tzu wrote the treatise *The Art of War* and among the fundamental analysis performed before a battle, the leader or general was advised to ask themselves certain questions. Among these that are pertinent to the match-up between Hillary and Barack:

Who has the stronger force?

Who has the better-trained forces?

We might say that Barack has the stronger force in terms of raw numbers, while Hillary has the better-trained and more experienced forces in general.

Now, Barack does indeed have a core of experienced leadership behind him but also a great mass of people of have little or no political experience.

The onus on the Obama campaign is give these young people "basic training" as rapidly as possible before "game time" weeks before the election. The Camp Obama training sessions are an example of training volunteers in campaign techniques and strategy.

Even larger efforts are the nationwide events like the house parties at the end of the last quarter, and the upcoming national canvas on June 9. The campaign is also increasing the resources available at the official website that can help local groups organize effectively.

Now, for John Edwards and the second-tier candidates, the idea would be to use their relative obscurity to their advantage. Let the two front-runners preoccupy themselves with each other and forget their campaigns. This is known as the "stealth" approach. Concentrate all your resources for that clutch period just before the polls when you unleash your surprise attack. Let the big guys spend and waste their money freely early on.

In order to avoid a late surprise, the Obama campaign must have sufficient intelligence on what all serious candidates are doing. And they must avoid squandering their money too early in the campaign.

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The ancient philosopher Sun Tzu wrote the treatise *The Art of War*

Standing-room crowd for Barack and Michelle in NH (2007-05-27 18:49)

Barack Obama and his family continued their combination campaign/holiday trip through New Hampshire Sunday drawing a full house of 1,000 to 1,200 people in Conway.

Michelle Obama turned out to be as much a hit as her candidate husband and was asked how she would serve as first lady.

"I come to this with a lot of interesting talents, but I think it would be unfair of me to say today what I would do in a couple of years," she continued. "I need to be prepared to do what the country needs me to do at the time.

"Whether that's baking cookies or serving as a wonderful hostess, that's my job. I have to be prepared to do what's necessary. And we won't know what that's going to be until we get there. I will be staunchly invested. It is a joint project."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Kezang Dema inspired to run in Bhutan by Barack Obama (2007-05-28 11:02)

The mountain-clad Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan will have its first parliamentary elections next year.

One of the candidates, 27-year-old Kezang Dema is the youngest and only female candidate in elections to the upper house.

Dema said her decision to run came after watching a BBC news report on U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama.

"I saw something in his speech. I wanted to do the same for my people. Education is a priority and we need to make 100 % of our people literate."

Superdelegates

Although Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign is concentrated on mobilizing grassroots and netroots support he is not ignoring the important "superdelegates" that participate in the nomination process.

The superdelegates are elected officials who cast votes at the nominating Democratic Convention along with state delegates chosen in primaries and caucuses.

There are 235 Democratic House members and nonvoting representatives, 49 senators, the District of Columbia's two "shadow senators" and 28 governors, a total of 314 votes.

The nominee must gather 2,182 delegates to win the party's presidential nomination at next year's national convention in Denver. There will be a total of 4361 delegates.

Gaining endorsements early though does not guarantee a superdelegate will vote for you at the convention though.

Historically, the superdelegates often grant their votes to whoever is the obvious winner at the time.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama unveils sweeping health care plan (2007-05-29 08:46)

The Associated Press today received details of Sen. Barack Obama's new health care plan that he will announce later in the day.

The plan would provide universal health care even for those with preexisting conditions and regardless of age. The system would remain private but with government funds to cover those who cannot afford insurance using a sliding scale subsidy based on income.

A number of cost-cutting measures are included such as increasing preventive care, reducing emergency room costs associated with the uninsured, and decreasing paperwork costs with an electronic filing system.

Obama would also raise money by axing Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and by requiring all but the smallest businesses to contribute to the system.

According to the proposal, Obama's plan would save the typical consumer about \$2,500 a year in medical expenses.

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"Today on the Trail" with Barack Obama (2007-05-29 16:45)

The Today Show has a series "Today on the Trail" and today they interviewed Barack Obama. The interview is available on the YouTube video below provided by Dartmouth for Obama.

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Barack's Health Care Plan (2007-05-29 19:54)

Barack Obama revealed details of his new health care plan at a speech today in Iowa and on his website.

We are not a country that rewards hard work and perseverance with bankruptcies and foreclosures. We are not a country that allows major challenges to go unsolved and unaddressed while our people suffer needlessly. In the richest nation on Earth, it is simply not right that the skyrocketing profits of the drug and insurance industries are paid for by the skyrocketing premiums that come from the pockets of the American people.

This is not who we are. And this is not who we have to be.

One issue that Obama avoided in his plan was the shortage of health care workers. The lack of doctors, nurses, technicians, nurse's aides and other workers has consistently been a driving force in skyrocketing medical costs. However, one of the solutions to this problem – the importation of health care workers from abroad – is a sensitive issue especially with the current immigration debate going on.

Barack's Plan for a Healthy America

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama campaign prepares Walk for Change (2007-05-30 14:00)

The Obama campaign send out a letter yesterday asking supporters to make final preparations for the big national canvas on June 9:

X Hundreds of thousands of Americans will have their first conversation about Barack Obama on June 9th, and you can make it a success.

Volunteers across all fifty states will be teaming up to tell their neighbors about our campaign for change. We know we can't just depend on traditional media to tell Barack's story, or yours. There's no one better to share those stories than you.

Talking to your neighbors can change America. Find a Walk for Change near you, or host a walk in your community:

my.barackobama.com/walkforchange

More than a thousand people have planned neighborhood walks in communities across the country, but they are relying on your commitment to make these events a success. Help them out by encouraging your friends, family, and colleagues to join.

Walks with five or more registered participants will receive a special package of materials to engage people, so your response is crucial.

RSVP by midnight on Wednesday, May 30th, to make sure the walk nearest you receives materials:

my.barackobama.com/walkforchange

Politics in America doesn't have to be a screaming match. Our campaign is proving that people everywhere who care about our country can come together with a shared stake in our common future. Reach out to your neighbors and see just how hungry Americans are for change.

The family next door is looking for leadership on the same issues we all care about – Iraq, health care, climate change, corruption in Washington. Together we're building a movement that will find common ground and advance the common good for all Americans.

Be part of the change – sign up now to host or join a Walk for Change in your neighborhood:

my.barackobama.com/walkforchange

Local change is real change, so let's go out together and connect with our neighbors.

Thanks,

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack's interview on WQAD, Iowa City (2007-05-30 16:22)

Barack Obama gave a one-on-one interview with Matt Hammill of Iowa City's WQAD radio station. Here's what he had to say about his development into a presidential candidate:

I did not arrive here because I had a father or family members who are powerful politicians. I do not come from wealth- I came here because I was a community organizer working with churches, helping people who had been laid-off from work at steel plants. As a civil rights attorney, as a state legislator, people can take a look and see that I have generally risen in politics based on relationships with folks at the grassroots level, and that is the reason I am in politics. I truly believe that there is a core decency to the American people and that ordinary people, if they have a chance to get the levers of power and make government responsive, usually make pretty good decisions and the country goes in a good direction.

Read Barack's whole interview here.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-05-30 16:22)

I did not arrive here because I had a father or family members who are powerful politicians. I do not come from wealth- I came here because I was a community organizer working with churches, helping people who had been laid-off from work at steel plants. As a civil rights attorney, as a state legislator, people can take a look and see that I have generally risen in politics based on relationships with folks at the grassroots level, and that is the reason I am in politics. I truly believe that there is a core decency to the American people and that ordinary people, if they have a chance to get the levers of power and make government responsive, usually make pretty good decisions and the country goes in a good direction.

(2007-05-31 09:06)

Excitement is brewing in Nevada where large crowds are expected to greet Barack Obama at Reno, Las Vegas and other locations.

Things are also heating up for the big walk on June 9. Locally here in Sacramento, we've pulled together a lot of people for this event.

Today, Barack Obama sent out a letter to supporters on his health care plan dubbed Obamacare by some.

X "This is not who we are. We have done everything right. We have done everything we were supposed to do. This is not who we are."

- Amy in Iowa submitted online via My Policy

The story of Amy and Lane is the story of America's health care crisis.

Successful small business owners, Amy and Lane provide vital Internet services to their rural Iowa community. Despite their success, they are on the brink of bankruptcy, paying forty percent of their annual income in health care premiums. They've played by the rules of the American Dream, and it's left them with no savings, no retirement plan, and a growing mountain of credit card debt.

Watch a short video about Amy and Lane's story, and learn more about our health care plan:

<http://my.barackobama.com/healthcare>

Amy is right, this is not who we are. We are not a country that rewards hard work and perseverance with bankruptcies and foreclosures. We are not a country that allows major challenges to go unsolved and unaddressed while our people suffer needlessly.

Amy and Lane shared their story – their concerns, their fears, and their hope – with us via My Policy the same way you have already done. Their experiences and yours helped shape our approach to health care. Take a minute and learn more about our health care plans:

<http://my.barackobama.com/healthcare>

Today I want to share the details of our health care plan – a plan that not only guarantees coverage for every American, but also brings down the cost of health care and reduces every family's premiums by as much as \$2,500.

My plan begins by covering every American. If you already have health insurance, the only thing that will change for you is that you'll spend less money on premiums. If you are one of the 45 million Americans who don't have health insurance, you will have it after this plan becomes law.

Coverage without cost containment will only shift our burdens, not relieve them, so we will take five steps to remove waste and inefficiency from the system:

1. Catastrophic cases – patients with serious illnesses account for 80 % of all health care and insurance costs, and the federal government should pick up the tab for a large portion of these cases directly.
2. Prevention – refocus our health care system on preventing costly, debilitating conditions in the first place.
3. Quality – track and report treatment outcomes and reward hospitals and providers for quality rather than quantity of service.
4. Electronic Medical Records – move to a 21st century industry based on the latest information technology.
5. Drug and Insurance Companies – break the stranglehold that a few big drug and insurance companies have on the health care market.

These steps are designed to help people like Amy and Lane create a hopeful, happy ending to their American Dream. But we'd like to hear your thoughts on how this plan will affect your family and healthcare. We all have a stake in this, and want to hear what you think:

<http://my.barackobama.com/healthcare>

We have come so far in the health care debate in America, but the real challenges still need to be met. Now is the time for a movement of Americans, working together for the common good, to deliver on the promise of affordable health care for all.

Thank you,



Barack Obama



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama confident about Nevada (2007-05-31 17:32)

Sen. Barack Obama said he could win the early state of Nevada despite Hillary Clinton's early endorsements in that state.

Obama stressed that his grassroots support could bring his campaign victory just as it did in Illinois where he was outspent 6 to 1 in the primary for the U.S. Senate.

The candidate visited Reno today attracting a crowd of about 4,000 according to one police official. Here's a YouTube video of his appearance:

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1.6 June

Obama and Coal (2007-06-01 08:27)

Some blogs have questioned Barack Obama's new bill that would support to some extent the use of liquid coal.

They say this goes against Obama's declared green credentials and his commitment to battle climate change.

Liquid coal is a cleaner alternative to diesel, still the main fuel for heavy transport in the U.S. It might also be a bit cleaner than gasoline. And the coal can be found in the United States so there is much less transportation involved in its use.

Personally, I believe that solar energy is the way to in eventually finding the right "mix" for sustainable energy production. Nearly all of our energy production currently is solar although much wrapped up with carbon through photosynthesis of plant life.

However, solar can never be the sole solution and their definitely will have to stop-gap measures on the way before solar energy obtains worldwide "grid parity," the point where it matches other sources in cost.

One big short-term solution is the use of biofuels, which Obama has routinely promoted. Biofuels are also part of the long-term solution, but only on a limited scale. Too much use of biofuels could threaten rainforests as the world population continues to grow, which would be counterproductive. However these clean fuels offer a quick way of reversing current trends.

Liquid coal can also be part of an interim mix until better technologies are poised to take over. To some extent this takeover is already starting to happen with solar energy. In many locations, solar has reached grid parity. Investment is pouring into the solar energy industry. Technologies are developed that help bring down the cost of refining silicone, the primary "ingredient" in photovoltaic cells. Silicone is the second most abundant element

Obama is a pragmatic politician rather than a purist and liquid coal in his view may represent a way, probably a temporary way, to start achieving energy independence. However, it is clear from his policy statements that it is not a main solution for he doesn't mention coal at all in most of his energy papers and speeches.

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max dugan (2008-02-20 11:04:00)

Senator Obama may have some wonderful futuristic ideas however, the rest of us live in the present.

The price of crude oil will soon be trading way over \$100 per barrel and the price of gasolines will soar over the \$4 per gallon level. What are we to do? Wait 5 years until the first coal oil plants come online? The inflation is eating us up alive.

I am tired of listening to empty campaign promises. If elected, what will Preident Obama do to quickly reduce manufacturing and transportation costs? What kind of fuel will we use in our automobiles and at what price?

If Senator Obama wants my vote he will have to provide straight answers.

Obama wows Seattle, visits California for funds (2007-06-02 12:52)

Sen. Barack Obama drew a crowd estimated at 3,500 in Seattle for his Washington state kickoff last night.

The big rally doubled as a grassroots fundraiser, and there were swankier affairs afterward including a \$500 a person reception at the Westin Hotel, and a sponsor's reception for \$2,300.

Obama visits the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley today to build up additional funds for his campaign. In addition to the big money events, there will be more accessible fundraisers including a meet-and-greet cocktail party at Plug and Play in Santa Clara.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Seattle Excitement (2007-06-02 21:00)

Here are some YouTube videos showing the excitement generated by Barack Obama during his visit to Seattle.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Polls favor Barack, Pundits favor Clinton after debate (2007-06-04 07:48)

As in the first presidential debate, the view polls are favoring Barack Obama, while the media pundits continue to praise Hillary Clinton, although this time around many also liked John Edwards.

An editorial in the Cornell University student newspaper gave the nod to Obama. It would be interesting to know how young people as a whole viewed the debate, as I believe they will play a very important role during this election.

Here are some polls you can participate in:

MSNBC poll

CNN poll

WMUR poll (local NH host)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Campaign prepares training video for walkers (2007-06-04 17:23)

Trista Allen of Team Obama sent out an email today alerting volunteers about resources available for big walk on Saturday.

The package includes a training video with pointers on how to campaign door-to-door.

✕ A new chapter in American Politics begins this Saturday, when thousands of supporters like you bring our campaign to doorsteps across the country.

I'm Trista Allen, and I run the Southern Field Desk for Obama for America. We've put together a brief training video and an online resource center to help make your walk a success. Take a minute to confirm the details of your event and watch the video for some valuable pointers:

<http://my.barackobama.com/canvassvideo>

We hope you will take photos and record video of your canvass, but please be sure to follow the guidelines outlined on our submission page to ensure you respect the privacy of your neighbors and obey the law.

<http://my.barackobama.com/wfcsbmit>

Movements are created one household and one conversation at a time. This campaign is about you, and you are making this movement happen.

It's going to be huge – and this is just the beginning.

Thank you,

The Walk for Change Field Team

Trista, Buffy, Mary, Brandon, Hans, Chris, Ray, and Temo

P.S. Be sure to check out the Walk for Change store today to get merchandise for your event.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Juneteenth "Spiritual Unity" rally for Obama in Hawai'i (2007-06-05 07:13)

Barack Obama is fortunate in that he appears to have two states that are rallying behind him. His adopted home state of Illinois, and Hawai'i, the state of his birth and most of his youth.

Although, Barack recently suffered a hit in Hawai'i when Sen. Daniel Inouye endorsed Hillary, he still appears to have a stronger influence in the state than other candidates.

One Honolulu metro supporter, Bettye Jo Harris, is arranging a "spiritual unity" rally for Obama at the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church on Hickam Air Force Base. The event on June 24 will be part of the week-long Juneteenth celebrations, the nation's oldest commemoration of the ending of slavery.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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DOC (2008-01-18 23:22:00)

Juneteenth is America's 2nd Independence Day celebration. 26 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or state holiday observance, as well as the Congress of the United States.

Together we will see Juneteenth become a national holiday in Amemrica!

"DOC"

Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D.

Chairman

National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign

National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF)

National Juneteenth Christian Leadership Council (NJCLC)

www.Juneteenth.us

www.19thofJune.com

www.njclc.com

www.JuneteenthJazz.com

'Quiet Riot' simmers, Amigos organize for Obama (2007-06-05 12:47)

Sen. Barack Obama warned of a "quiet riot" that is taking place among African Americans displaced from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast by the Katrina some 20 months after the hurricane hit the area.

Obama, speaking in Hampton, Virginia, said that the frustration among blacks struck by Katrina threatens to erupt like the Los Angeles riots 15 years ago.

Barack courts Hispanics

After some major California Hispanic endorsements for Hillary Clinton, Obama is making moves to woo Hispanic voters to his campaign.

His initial overtures appear more geared eastward and to Hispanic speakers from the Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, etc. rather than those from Mexico and Central America.

Obama is working with supporter Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) on two amendments to the immigration bill. Menendez

is considered one of the brightest Hispanic stars in the country.

The new website Amigos de Obama at <http://amigosdeobama.com> also has a more Caribbean flair with the song *Obama Reggaeton* greeting visitors at the homepage with the following lyrics.

“Como Se Dice...Como Se llama? (OBAMA, OBAMA)”

Oye mi gente este es un hombre preperado...

La esperanza ha llegado.

Como Se Dice...Como Se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA! (Repeat four times)

Dicen que no contamos...

Invisibles porque no votamos...

Pero aqui estamos y todo esto va cambiar...

We did the marchas y ahora vamos a votar.

Listen to me gente, es tiempo para algo diferente..

What we need is un nuevo presidente...

Como Se Dice...Como Se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA! (Repeat two times)

Los Mexicanos como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Puerto Riqueños, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Los Peruanos, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

En esta gran nacion ya no existe una buena educacion,

Dicen todo el dinero va a la imigracion

Es facil culpar el que no vota

El gigante Latino esta que brota

Despierta!

Vamos a elegir a quien deberas entienda...

Como Se Dice...Como Se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA! (Repeat four times)

Los Colombianos, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Dominicanos, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Los Cubanos, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Los Brasileños, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA!

Salvadoreños, como se llama?

OBAMA! OBAMA! Latinos!!!

La esperanza ha llegado.

Como Se Dice...Como Se llama? (Repeat) X

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-06-06 06:30)

Wireless internet services available in class. Limited lodging is available on site at the Ohrenschall Guest Center.

There are also other hotels within a few miles including:

Travel Lodge Mill Valley/Sausalito: <http://www.marincountyhotel.com/>

Best Value Inn Mill Valley: <http://millvalleylodging.com/index.html>

Holiday Inn Express Mill Valley: <http://www.millvalleyca.hiexpress.com/>

Obamacare (2007-06-06 08:07)

Here's an editorial comment by Sen. Barack Obama published in the Boston Globe explaining his health care plan.

An editorial on May 30 stated that my universal health care plan would not cover everyone. That's simply inaccurate. My plan will cover every American.

Under my plan, the uninsured can buy health care similar to what federal employees have. No one would be denied health insurance because of preexisting conditions or illnesses. If you cannot afford insurance, you'll receive a subsidy to pay for it. If you have children, they'll be covered. If you change jobs, your insurance will go with you.

Once this plan is implemented, if you're still not covered, we'll find a way to cover you. We have the resources set aside to cover everyone.

But a truly universal plan cannot stop at coverage. It must take unprecedented steps to address the skyrocketing cost of health care. And my plan will cut the cost of every family's premiums by up to \$2,500.

The major reason that 45 million Americans don't have health care is not that they don't want it, it's that they can't afford it. If we require people to purchase insurance before we bring down its cost, we'll make a bad problem worse.

If we want to cover everyone, we must cut costs for everyone.

Senator Barack Obama

It seems like the important elements in Obama's plan that will determine its success if implemented will be determining what people can "afford," and how subsidies are dispersed. If people don't agree with the government on what is an affordable plan, then many may still opt not to buy health care insurance. So a good plan would probably have to err on the side of caution in determining what people will pay for health insurance.

Also, for those who can't afford insurance, will they have to wait in long "welfare" lines, or present vouchers in the way one uses food stamps? Many people won't do that unless absolutely necessary. However, if the process relatively private and simple, it likely will be successful.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dinner for Five with Barack Obama (2007-06-06 14:17)

Obama for America has come up with a novel way of raising more funds and changing politics as Barack has promised. "Dinner for Five with Barack" will give any contributor the chance of having a personal dinner and discuss the issues with Barack Obama, something politicians usually reserve only for the highest donors.

Here is the letter sent out by campaign manager David Plouffe announcing the opportunity:



Most political fundraisers are hosted by lobbyists and filled with representatives of special interests. But our campaign is different.

Our funding comes from a movement of Americans giving whatever they can afford, even \$5, and Barack wants to sit down with supporters like you.

You were there before the beginning, and you helped spark something new in American politics. Renew your support now and you could potentially meet Barack in person.

In the next week, four donors will be selected for a new kind of fundraising dinner. If you make a donation in any amount between now and 11:59 pm EDT on Wednesday, June 13, you could join Barack and three other supporters for an intimate dinner for five.

[Click here to give.](#)

Our movement is changing the way campaigns are funded. We're not taking any contributions from Washington lobbyists or political action committees.

More than 100,000 individual donors have demonstrated that this choice is about more than an election. It's about each of us having a personal stake in the future of American politics.

The dinner for five is an opportunity for you to sit down with Barack and your fellow supporters and talk about what matters to you.

Get the kind of treatment other politicians reserve for special interests. Make a donation in the next week, and you could share your story and your ideas with Barack in person:

[Click here to give.](#) With every single donation, we're building a movement to change American politics. And this is just the beginning.

Thanks for your support,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama walking boxes shipped, fundraising (2007-06-07 07:39)

✖ The Obama campaign is mailing boxes filled with literature, stickers and other items to use in the nationwide Walk for Change on June 9.



Each organized group with at least five walkers will receive a walking package by mail.
To sign up for the walk, [click here](#).

Obama 2nd qtr money to go sky high?

Various sources tracking fundraising for all candidates are buzzing that Barack Obama may provide yet another shock when reports are issued at the end of June.

Usually estimates are based on reports given by the event organizers themselves, or by multiplying the number of attendees by the entry fee to get a minimum estimate.

Most campaigns publish their scheduled fundraisers in press releases.

Barack, for example, has at least 23 fundraisers scheduled until June 29.

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Dinner with Barack gets huge response (2007-06-08 08:25)

More than 8,000 donations poured in within 24 hours of launching the Dinner for Five with Barack Obama promotion.
Check out the video at [this link](#).

Also watch the video below showing CNN's Frank Sesno discussing the changes that would occur in Washington if Barack Obama wins.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Making Contact (2007-06-10 17:47)

More than a thousand groups hit the streets yesterday often making contact with people who have never been involved in the electoral process.

Here in Sacramento, we registered about 160 new voters in some of the poorer neighborhoods in the area. Obama supporters went in pairs or larger groups to knock on doors with two groups working each different sides of the same street. A precinct captain handled each group of walkers.

The reception to Obama was great and many signed up for the Sacramento for Obama group.

I made a video capturing a little of what happened on this great nationwide grassroots campaigning day.

[EMBED]

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Barack hits the streets (2007-06-11 08:09)

Watch Barack Obama going door-to-door in this YouTube video from Dubuque, Iowa on Saturday.

[EMBED]

Colin Powell advises Obama on foreign policy

In a "Meet the Press" interview Sunday, former Secretary of State Colin Powell said that he has met twice with Barack Obama to discuss policy issues.

Powell fueled speculation when he said that he had not endorsed a candidate yet and would eventually choose whoever was best for the job.

Having Powell on a Democratic ticket would certainly be a different kind of politics since it would mean not one but two black men achieving historical firsts. Powell is also a registered Republican. Alternatively Barack could appoint Powell to his cabinet, since it's not that unusual to fill such positions with people from the opposite party.

A former general, joint chiefs chairman and secretary of state, Powell could offer the "executive" experience to counter doubts about a former community organizer as commander in chief.

From Powell's perspective, it could offer him some redemption after being fooled on Iraq WMD (although he didn't characterize it that way). War opponents might have trouble with the former general since he wasn't able to sniff out the b.s. that many other people were detected at the time. One should recognize though that he was under tremendous pressure to act as a "team player" as part of the Bush administration. And there are some of course who believe Powell knew all along that there was no Iraqi WMD and was part of a scheme to fool the American people.

A Powell endorsement would probably help Obama more in the general election than in the primary especially in attracting independent and crossover Republican votes.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack hits the streets (2007-06-11 08:09)

Watch Barack Obama going door-to-door in this YouTube video from Dubuque, Iowa on Saturday.
[EMBED]

Most voters like Barack (2007-06-11 16:11)

A new Bloomberg/Los Angeles Times poll suggests Obama has the widest appeal of all presidential candidates. "Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton continue to be the frontrunners for their parties' presidential nominations, though on the Republican side the momentum is with Fred Thompson and Democrat Barack Obama has the broadest appeal of any candidate."

Obama is the only Democrat who tops all Republicans according to the poll conducted June 7 to 10: "Obama, an Illinois senator, is clearly the strongest general-election candidate. He is the only Democrat who beats all three major Republican contenders: Giuliani, McCain and Romney. Clinton runs behind all three Republican contenders in head-to-head match-ups."

Only 3 percent of Democratic primary voters said they could not vote for Barack compared to 18 percent who said they couldn't vote for Hillary.

In contrast to a Rasmussen Reports poll which shows Edwards having the broadest appeal among Democrats, the Bloomberg/Los Angeles Times poll shows Edwards losing half his support compared to the last survey two months ago.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack in California, Michelle goes to Vegas (2007-06-12 07:57)

Barack Obama will attend a bevy of fundraisers in California both in the north and south of the state. Six in all since Tuesday.

Michelle Obama will meet supporters in Las Vegas on Wednesday at the kickoff event for "Nevada Women for Obama" at the Cambridge Recreation Center.

Across the country, Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty announced his endorsement of Obama yesterday.

Obama had long-term White House goal

A story published yesterday in the Chicago Tribune indicates that Barack and his staff prepared a careful long-term plan for a presidential bid in 2012 or 2016 that included a possible stint as Illinois governor.

However, advisers like Sen. Dick Durbin and swelling grassroots support that he encountered while promoting his book "The Audacity of Hope" convinced him that 2008 was a golden opportunity not to be missed.



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Michelle launches New Hampshire Women for Obama (2007-06-12 23:06)

Check out this video of Michelle Obama with daughters Sasha and Malia in Concord New Hampshire for the kickoff fair for NH Women for Obama.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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The Chicago Black Political Machine and Barack Obama (2007-06-13 08:09)

Barack Obama's near lock on political support in Chicago and Illinois is some of the strongest home state support I've seen for a presidential candidate.

Obama's strong base of support was initially fostered largely by his ability to gain backing in Chicago's tested black political environment.

It is not surprising that America's first truly viable black presidential candidate is based in Chicago. The city has produced the only two African Americans elected to the U.S. Senate as Democrats – Carol Moseley-Braun and Barack Obama.

There have been only three other black U.S. senators – two appointed in Mississippi and one elected in Massachusetts – all three were Republicans.

Chicago also produced America's most viable black presidential candidate until Barack - Jesse Jackson. Moseley-Braun had launched her own short presidential campaign in 2004 before bowing out early and endorsing Howard Dean instead.

Jackson, seen by many as the heir to Martin Luther King's legacy – based his Rainbow PUSH Coalition in Chicago.

One of Black America's most powerful and controversial entities, the Nation of Islam, is also centered in Chicago.

The city is home to Oprah Winfrey, considered by many as the most powerful woman and media person in America, and she has publicly endorsed Barack. Her sprawling media network consisting of the nation's top talk show, the popular O Magazine, the Oxygen Media cable tv channel, the Oprah & Friends cable radio channel and a heavily-visited website, is based in Chicago.

Harold Washington and the arrival of Barack Obama

Black political power in Chicago reached a milestone when Harold Washington was elected as the city's first African American mayor. It was at this time, that a young Barack Obama arrived on the scene as a young community organizer.

Washington developed the system and alliances that allowed other black politicians who followed to flourish in the city.

Barack wrote that he considered Chicago as "the capital of the African American community in the country." And the black community of Chicago had developed a network of black professionals and business owners who were willing and able to dole out the money needed to launch serious mainstream political candidates on the local and state levels.

With Chicago's black political machine behind him, everyone had to pay attention to Barack, and his appeal quickly spread to other communities. Unlike Washington and Jackson before him, Obama was much less polarizing and he quickly found friends even in the most unlikely of places. His history and background made it easier to bridge gaps that stymied his predecessors.

Barack's coalition was closer to the rainbow that Jackson dreamed of but was never quite able to bring together.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama hedges position on "green" coal (2007-06-13 13:18)

In a move bound to gladden the hearts of Sen. Barack Obama's green support, an email sent to environmental groups clarified his position on liquid coal.

The email stated that "Senator Obama will not support the development of any coal-to-liquid fuels unless they emit at least 20 % less life-cycle carbon than conventional fuels."

Obama aides said that the media had misconstrued the senator's position on liquid coal as a part of a solution toward energy independence. "Senator Obama supports research into all technologies to help solve our climate change and energy dependence problems, including shifting our energy use to renewable fuels and investing in technology that could make coal a clean-burning source of energy."

In addition, Obama supports stricter fuel efficiency standards and increased use of biofuels as part of his energy policy.

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(2007-06-13 15:01)

Barack Obama today sent a letter to supporters outlining some of the success achieved during the Walk for Change last Saturday:

More than 1,000 events in all fifty states

More than 10,000 volunteers

More than 500,000 people introduced to our movement for change

Here's the entire letter:

Saturday's Walk for Change was a beautiful thing.

When I first started as a community organizer, I was lucky if I got five people to show up in a basement with some folding chairs.

On one day, you managed to:

- organize more than 1,000 events in all fifty states
- get more than 10,000 volunteers to go door to door in their neighborhoods; and
- introduce more than 500,000 people to our movement for change



All of these personal stories and conversations add up to more than a political campaign. Together we're building a movement to make politics mean something again and change this country.

Thank you for being a part of it. 

Barack Obama

P.S. – If you participated in a Walk for Change and took photos or recorded video, or if you'd like to share your feedback, please take a few minutes to contact us: <http://my.barackobama.com/wfcupload>



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Anonymous (2008-10-06 09:47:00)

Hit Palin HARD, don't let her comments and charges go unanswered or unchallenged. Since she calls herself the pitbull with lipstick hit back with all you can.

YouTube features Barack Obama (2007-06-14 07:42)

YouTube has started featuring Barack Obama starting last night and already there are more than 40,000 views of his new video at the time of this writing:

Barack asks:

Share your stories about the work you are doing . . . Maybe you are involved in an AmeriCorps program and you are helping communities rebuild down in New Orleans. Maybe you are involved as a teacher? I would love to hear the stories you are telling about the day to day struggles you have in the classroom. Maybe you're still in high school but have been working in a homeless shelter or a soup kitchen.

What ever it is that is inspiring you to get involved and make this country better, we want to hear those ideas from you.

Barack Obama

Please:

Visit Barack TV on YouTube youtube.com/barackobama and send us your video responses

* Subscribe to our Youtube channel to be posted on upcoming videos

* Share your ideas at either barackobama.com/youtube or in the comments section [EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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On Obama the movement builder (2007-06-14 14:51)

Read this interesting article examining Barack Obama's efforts to build a movement for change at various levels:
Obama as movement builder

Rally in South Carolina

From the official blog:



It's not too late- sign up now to get free tickets to the rally with Barack in Greenville, South Carolina.

When: Friday June 15, 2007 - Doors open at 12:30 PM, Program begins at 2:00 PM

Where: McAlister Square, Main Entrance, 225 Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC And make sure to check out the video from this past weekend's Walk for Change in Charleston, South Carolina to see the amazing support Barack has in the Palmetto State.

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Obama staff blast on Hillary's India linkages (2007-06-15 07:39)

News of an "opposition paper" attributed to the Obama campaign on Hillary Clinton's ties with India came out today. An opposition paper is an anonymous document not meant for public release. The fact that the New York Sun did release the document says something about that publication's journalistic integrity, but nonetheless it's out there. And what's contained in the documents is worrisome.

Even if this were an internal memo, the wording is of an offensive nature that now has the possibility of hurting Obama's standing in the Indo-American community and among immigrant-linked communities in general.

I should point out that the paper itself cannot be linked directly with Barack Obama. It's pretty obviously not in his style of writing, nor the style of statement that those who have followed him would expect him to approve.

The whole paper is pasted below.

The tone is xenophobic and it makes India and other poor "offshore" countries appears as the "bad guys."

Obama may have to do some damage control on this one if it gets out of hand. And his staff needs to know that while on campaign they need to communicate while on duty, at all times, as he would communicate.

Opposition Paper on Hillary Clinton's ties with India

HILLARY CLINTON (D-PUNJAB)'S PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL TIES TO INDIA The Clintons have reaped significant financial rewards from their relationship with the Indian community, both in their personal finances and Hillary's campaign fundraising. Hillary Clinton, who is the co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, has drawn criticism from anti-offshoring groups for her vocal support of Indian business and unwillingness to protect American jobs. Bill Clinton has invested tens of thousands of dollars in an Indian bill payment company, while Hillary Clinton has taken tens of thousands from companies that outsource jobs to India. Workers who have been laid off in upstate New York might not think that her recent joke that she could be elected to the Senate seat in Punjab is that funny.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY PERSONAL HOLDINGS 2006: Bill Clinton Invested Tens of Thousands In An Indian Bill Payment Company. According to Hillary Clinton's personal financial disclosure form, as part his ownership of WJC Investments, LP LLC, Bill Clinton held between \$15,001 and \$50,000 worth of stock in Easy Bill Limited, an Indian company. According to the company's website, "Functioning as a one-stop bill payment shop, Easy Bill facilitates payment of utility bills as well as recharging of pre-paid mobile connections at a place the consumer is already familiar and comfortable with the neighbourhood store." In addition to providing terminals throughout India where customers may pay their bills, the company also maintains a call center described as "a dedicated response centre for efficient customer service." [Hillary Clinton 2006 Financial Disclosure Report, <http://www.easybillindia.com/>]

2006: Bill Clinton Collected \$300,000 From Cisco In 2006. Hillary's personal financial disclosure forms indicate that Bill Clinton gave two speeches to Cisco Systems, each for \$150,000 on 5/18/06 and 8/17/06. [Hillary Clinton 2006 Financial Disclosure Report; 3,4]

CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING Hillary Clinton Accepted Almost \$60,000 In Contributions From Employees Of Cisco Systems, Which Laid Off American Workers to Hire Indian "Techies." Clinton's Presidential Exploratory Committee took \$39,450 from Cisco employees during the first quarter of 2007. Cisco employees have also donated \$18,900 to Clinton's Senate committee between 1999 and 2006. Forbes reported, in a feature called "A Tale of Two Cities" that Cisco was laying off \$60,000-a-year "techies," while hiring new employees in Bangalore, India. "Cisco used only a few Infosys workers in Bangalore six years ago [in 1998]; [by 2004, it used] almost 300 contract staff, plus 550 full-fledged employees in its own Bangalore office." In 2006, Newsweek reported that "for Cisco, India is the new frontier, where it's investing \$1.2 billion to build a gleaming R &D campus that will employ 3,000 people." [FEC filings; Forbes, 4/12/04; Newsweek, 3/6/06]

Clinton Donor, Sant Singh Chatwal, Cited Clinton's India Caucus Work Vowed To Raise \$5 Million. In March 2007, the Economic Times wrote, "[Clinton] has roped in New York-based hotelier Sant Chatwal as co-chair of her recently formed presidential exploratory committee to run for the 2008 White House race. [...] He is also creating an organization called Indian Americans for Hillary 2008." In April 2007, Mangalorean reported that Indian Americans for Hillary 2008 (IAFH) had already raised \$1 million and "aimed to raise at least five million dollars." A major fund raiser on June 24 hosted by Chatwal, the founder of IAFH; steel baron, Lakshmi Mittal, and businessman SP Hindujas, was expected to pull more than 1,000 guests. In June 2007, The New York Times reported that "two Indo-American receptions have a total of \$450,000 in commitments." In the picture (right), Sen. Clinton speaks at a reception hosted to push forward the US-India nuclear deal while Sant Singh Chatwal listens carefully. [New York Times, 6/7/07; Economic Times of India, 3/18/07; mangalorean.com, 4/14/07, accessed 4/18/07; picture, Tribune India, 9/14/06]

Chatwal Owed The City Of New York More Than \$2 Million In Back Taxes, Fled Prosecution For Fraud But Was Arrested During Visit to India With Bill Clinton. Sant Singh Chatwal, who raised more \$200,000 for Sen. Clinton in 2000, owed New York City \$2.4 million in back property taxes. In addition, during a visit to India with Bill Clinton, in May 2001, Chatwal was arrested by authorities there and charged with defrauding the New York City branch of the Bank of India out of \$9 million he borrowed in 1994. He posted bail, then fled India, boarding a flight to Vienna despite an attempt by authorities to detain him. . [New York Daily News, 11/24/02; New York Daily News, 11/7/00]

FDIC Charged Chatwal With Obtaining Improper Loans. In a separate 1996 case, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. charged Chatwal with obtaining improper loans from the First New York Bank for Business, causing the bank to lose more than \$25 million. Chatwal, who was a director of the bank, arranged more than \$14 million in loans to himself and his businesses, often with no collateral, said the FDIC. He didn't repay the loans and the bank failed. [New York Daily News, 11/24/02; New York Daily News, 11/7/00]

CLINTON AND THE SENATE INDIA CAUCUS Clinton Co-Founded The Senate India Caucus, A Project Of The U.S. India Political Action Committee. In 2004, Clinton co-founded and became the co-chair of the Senate India Caucus which was coordinated by the U.S. India Political Action Committee (USINPAC). Roll Call reported, "The goals of the caucus, which already has 31 members, include increasing trade with India and improving security against global terrorism." Sen. Clinton said, "It is imperative that the United States do everything possible to reach out to India. This Caucus is dedicated to expanding areas of agreement with India and engaging in a candid dialogue of differences." [link to photo at USINPAC website, accessed 4/17/07; Roll Call, 4/28/04; PR Newswire, 4/29/04]

CLINTON WINS "WEASEL AWARD" FOR COMMENTS ON INDIA 2005: Anti-Offshoring Advocacy Group Gave Sen. Clinton A "Weasel Award," Citing Pro-Outsourcing Comments Clinton Made In India. The Press Trust of India wrote, "An American anti-offshoring advocacy group has awarded its first 'Weasel Award of 2005' to Democrat Senator Hillary Clinton for her recent remarks supporting outsourcing. The Delaware-based IT Professionals Association of America (ITPAA) representing over 1,200 IT professionals nationwide, said on its Web site that it presented this award to business and political leaders that it believes 'betray the trust of the American people.' Scott Kirwin, founder of the organization claimed that people were 'tired of Democrats pretending they care about the problems facing average Americans. Senator Clinton's actions prove they clearly do not.' The ITPAA based its award on press reports of Hilary Clinton supporting outsourcing and assuring political and business leaders in India that the US would not attempt to save the jobs lost. 'Outsourcing will continue. There is no way to legislate against reality. We are not in favor of putting up fences.' Hillary had said on Feb 28 in India, according to a report by the Asia Times. Kirwin also cited her position as co-chair of the 'Friends of India Caucus' in the Senate, a group of senators that supports issues important to India, including outsourcing and H-1B and L-1 visas, as another reason behind the ITPAA's decision to give the award to the prospective Democrat presidential nominee." [Press Trust Of India, 3/5/05; Link To Weasel Award]

2/05: On India Trip, Clinton Allayed India's Fears That Outsourcing Would End. The India Review wrote, "Senator Clinton allayed apprehensions in India that there would be a bar on outsourcing. 'There is no way to legislate against reality. Outsourcing will continue,' she said. [India Review, 4/05, accessed, 6/7/07]

Sen. Clinton (D-Punjab) Joked That She Was Senator From The Punjab Region In India. "At the fundraiser hosted by Dr Rajwant Singh at his Potomac, Maryland, home, and which raised nearly \$50,000 for her re-election campaign, Clinton began by joking that, 'I can certainly run for the Senate seat in Punjab and win easily,' after being introduced by Singh as the Senator not only from New York but also Punjab." [India Abroad, 3/17/06]

CLINTON CLAIMS OUTSOURCING "WORKS BOTH WAYS...IT ACTUALLY BROUGHT JOBS TO BUFFALO." Clinton Says "Outsourcing Does Work Both Ways." Crain's New York Business wrote, "Mrs. Clinton may be motivated by a desire to uphold the free trade legacy of the Clinton years. [...] In an appearance on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight, she boasted about attracting 10 jobs to New York from India-based Tata Consulting. When Mr. Dobbs inquired if she had understood the degree to which Tata, which helps U.S. companies outsource, was stealing American jobs, Mrs. Clinton rejoined: 'They've actually brought jobs to Buffalo. Outsourcing does work both ways.'" [Crain's New York Business, 6/21/04; CNN, 3/3/04] In An Interview With Lou Dobbs, Senator Clinton Defended Her Support Of Tata Consulting, A Company That Brought Ten Jobs To Native Buffalo Residents But Destroyed Thousands Of Jobs Over The Years. Lou Dobbs asked Clinton, "Senator, a number of people pointed out to us, e-mailing us and calling us, saying, ask the senator about her helping Tata Consulting, a well-known outsourcer, open jobs - and office in

Buffalo, New York. I'm asking you, did you really understand the degree to which they were involved in outsourcing jobs when you were there?" Clinton replied, "Well, of course I know that they outsource jobs, that they've actually brought jobs to Buffalo. They've created 10 jobs in Buffalo and have told me and the Buffalo community that they intend to be a source of new jobs in the area, because, you know, outsourcing does work both ways." [CNN, 3/3/04] Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Is Famous For Pioneering The Business Practice Of Off-shoring. The San Jose Mercury News wrote, "TCS, however, will go down in the annals of offshoring as the original high-tech body shop. Starting in the early 1990s, TCS blanketed the American landscape with legions of itinerant software programmers from India. [...] Tata pioneered an industry that eventually evolved into the dynamo of offshoring, or sending work to cheap labor markets overseas. [...] Tata's methods have not been popular among U.S. technology workers, however, who complain guest workers suppress local wages and offshoring takes good jobs overseas." [San Jose Mercury News, 12/6/04] Tata's Buffalo, N.Y. Training Center Caters To The Needs Of The Company's 8,000 Employees In The United States, 80 Percent Of Whom Are Workers From India. India Abroad wrote, "At the Chrysalis Center TCS will host new employees in month-long training sessions to make them aware of the company's history and culture and to hone their core IT skills that will bridge existing knowledge with advanced skills necessary to work on innovative projects for customers." The center will also cater to the training needs of the more than 8,000 TCS employees across the US, 80 percent of whom are from India, according to Buffalo News. [India Abroad, 7/30/04; Buffalo News, 7/20/04] Gupta Said Democrats' Stand On Outsourcing Was Poll-Year Rhetoric. The Economic Times wrote, "Vinod 'Vin' Gupta [...] also believes that the Democratic Party's stand on outsourcing is more poll year rhetoric than any serious economic policy statement. 'We have to compete globally and US has to find the best product and services at the best cost. Tapping global resources will obviously make the US economy stronger,' says Gupta whose own company InfoUSA outsources both technology support and database work to vendors in India. Gupta, who has helped Hillary Clinton and Al Gore in fund-raising efforts for their campaigns, is now involved in fund raising efforts for Senator Kerry." [The Economic Times, 3/29/04]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama says Dems should not "take the South off the table" (2007-06-15 19:24)

Sen. Barack Obama visited a soul food in Jackson, Mississippi telling patrons that Democrats should not write off the South during the general election.

"I've always felt that you win votes by showing up and people getting to know you and understanding what your values are and what you care about," Obama said. "People in Mississippi are struggling with the same things people all across the country are struggling with - the lack of health care, trying to figure out how to pay for their children's college education, how they are dealing with retirement security (and) jobs."

Obama ordered peach cobbler to go before taking off for two fundraisers in the city. About 37 percent of Mississippi's population is African American.

Jin's "Open Letter to Obama"

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama campaign responds to Indian concerns over memo (2007-06-16 07:30)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe responded to concerns by an Indian American group over the Obama memo leaked that attacked Hillary's support of outsourcing to India. The article from "The Swamp" is appended below:

U.S.-India group sends letter questioning Obama

Posted by John McCormick and Christi Parsons

Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign expressed regret late Friday for the "tone" used in recently disclosed campaign documents that raised questions about rival Democrat Sen. Hillary Clinton's ties to India and Indian Americans.

The statement from Obama's campaign manager came in the wake of complaints from an Indian American group, whose leader complained earlier in the day about "anti-Indian American stereotyping" in the documents.

"There cannot be a suggestion that Indian-Americans are somehow taboo," said Sanjay Puri, chairman of the 50,000-member U.S.-India Political Action Committee. "That is not the message we want any leader to be presenting."

In a letter to Obama's campaign, the group asked the Illinois Democrat to "respond directly" to the reports and to "let us know if indeed your staff is promoting these hurtful stereotypes."

At issue are documents distributed to some news organizations by Obama aides on a not-for-attribution basis that offered a harsh analysis of the Clintons. One appeared under the headline "Hillary Clinton (D-Punjab)'s personal financial and political ties to India."

A copy of the documents was obtained by Clinton's campaign, which then provided them to the Tribune and other news organizations. Obama's campaign has confirmed the authenticity of the documents.

The Obama campaign said it regrets parts of the campaign-generated papers.

"Barack Obama has been a longtime friend of the Indian-American community and our campaign is fortunate to have strong support from Indian-Americans across the country," Obama campaign manager David Plouffe said in a statement. "The intent of the document was to discuss the issue of outsourcing, but we regret the tone that parts of the document took."

The release of the opposition research by the Obama camp was prompted by the Thursday release of new personal financial documents by Clinton's campaign.

Here are the documents:

Document 1: [Download file](#)

Document 2: [Download file](#)

And here is a video with Obama's own take on opposition research.



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Barack on Fatherhood and the Family (2007-06-16 16:16)

The Barack Obama campaign is releasing two items on Father's Day. A speech and video from South Carolina on strengthening families:



They are also launching a new podcast service that will be available soon on iTunes:

The Official Barack Obama Podcasts



This occasional series will catch up with Barack and supporters with an intimate look at Barack and supporters from the campaign trail.



Watch Episode 1: On Fatherhood in the player to the right. Use the buttons above to subscribe to the podcasts and get future episodes automatically. If you know the Internet address of a podcast, you can subscribe to it without using the iTunes Store. Choose Advanced > "Subscribe to Podcast" and then enter the URL. You can get the url from the buttons above.

Coming soon to the iTunes Store



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



XYBORG (2007-06-17 06:03:00)

As reticent as we are given to believe white Americans remain about electing a Black man like Senator Barack Obama to be their president and as impervious to logic as their enduring prejudices are to the rest of mankind is it necessarily counter-intuitive to imagine that they would be any less reluctant to appoint two Black men to their nation's two highest offices? Would such hesitance be compounded or would it not reverse and cancel out itself? Especially if the other Black man was General Colin Powell in the role of vice president?

Does it robotically follow that an America which has yet to demonstrate a readiness to be led by a single Black man would automatically balk at the prospect of two such men in the White House? Or would so daring a display of political chutzpah not, effectively, "checkmate" those reservations and capture the imagination of Americans like nothing in the entire political history of that country?

Indeed, wouldn't the mere coupling of two individuals with such stellar credentials not only serve to allay any fears about their fitness for such high offices but would actually enhance the confidence of the American electorate in so iconic a presidential partnering? For, does the answer to the "Black President Question" not, in fact, lie in an unprecedented political double-act, a unique "double whammy", consisting of not just any random pairing but of this Black president and that Black vice president? Would an Obama/Powell ticket be deemed "too Black" for the American electoral palette? Or would the combined calibre of both men have the opposite effect of, essentially, "aggregating out" their "over-Blackness" in a manner which would negate it as an adverse consideration in the minds of voters precisely because it was so, well, omni-present?

Is Senator Obama who really has nothing to lose at this point possessed of the raw gutsiness to double his political bets and altogether pre-empt the entire question of America's willingness to accept a man like himself in the role of CEO, by tapping

General Powell as his running mate and teasing the American electorate with the eye-popping prospect of two Black rulers in the West Wing at the same time? Indeed, may the answer to that age-old conundrum not lie on the far side of so brazen a display of sheer political sass? For, what other coupling could possibly match it? What presidential tag team would even come close? The US elections would be over before they had barely begun.

Having used his recent appearance on NBC's Meet the Press to make known that not only had he provided foreign policy advice to candidate Obama but that his "eyes and ears" remained open to requests to serve his country, General Powell unintentionally dangled, for that most fleeting of moments, the tantalizing prospect of what would be the most sensational single occurrence in American political history.

Since the question of whether or not America could ever "bring herself" to elect a Black president remains unresolved and to the extent that concerns about "competence" have underpinned that reluctance Americans should take heart from the knowledge that the institutions, procedures and functions of their nation are Herculean enough to check and balance the best efforts of even the most inept, ghetto-blasting and afro-having occupant of the Oval Office. For, not only does America need to elect a Black president if for no other reason than to get it "over and done with" and thus forever erase it from her national psyche as a question but she, unique among the nations of the Earth, can both afford and withstand such a presidency.

The breathtaking possibility of two Black men each of the very highest calibre and pedigree assuming power as both president and vice president of a country still so contorted and torn by its ghastly legacy of racial bigotry would dramatize and electrify the United States of America and the world beyond her shores. It would transform the national dialogue in that country and galvanise her electorate as never before. As the quintessential Manichean obverse to Bush/Cheney, the Obama/Powell administration would revolutionise the global identity of America and infuse her with a new momentum and meaning.

A Democrat like Senator Obama and a Republican like General Powell would provide the perfect bi-partisan ideological balm that could heal a divided America and surge her toward a better tomorrow. Such an Obama-Powell Presidency would be nothing short of messianic and would renew America's purpose in our world.

This possibility cannot be allowed to be a mere "dream"; for America and the world's sake, it must become reality.

Paul Kekai Manansala (2007-06-17 07:50:00)

I think Powell could strengthen a general election ticket.

However, I doubt that he will accept the vice president position because of his wife.

She's against Powell becoming president, which of course is always a possibility for a vice. You really need a spouse's support to run for elective office.

Maybe she's changed her mind after seeing Obama campaigning for office.

Powell though said he wasn't interested in elective office, and it may be that an appointment is in the works instead with Powell endorsing Obama.

Barack Obama leads in South Carolina poll (2007-06-17 08:47)

Sen. Barack Obama leads the pack in a recent Mason-Dixon poll conducted from June 13 to 15.

"Obama led in the new poll with 34 percent of likely voters to 25 percent for Clinton. Edwards was third at 12 percent. Sen. Joe Biden was at 2 percent; so was former Vice President Al Gore, who has given no indication of running but whose name was volunteered by some voters. Twenty-four percent were undecided."

Obama has done rather well in polls taken at least partly after his nationwide canvass on June 9 and one wonders whether the outreach helped boost his numbers.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-06-17 09:03)

"<http://nh.barackobama.com/page/content/nhcontactoffice>

Barack Obama seen as most intelligent candidate (2007-06-18 07:51)

A Forbes '08 Tracker poll found that respondents felt Sen. Barack Obama is the most intelligent of all the political candidates with Fred Thompson coming in second.

The same poll also found as the third most "appealing" candidate behind Rudy Giuliani and Fred Thompson, and the highest rated Democrat in this category. However, Obama was rated last of all the candidates in experience.

Barack popular among Navajo

Despite their location in New Mexico and Bill Richardson's support of Native American issues, Navajo leaders are looking to invite Barack Obama to the Shiprock reservation where Obama is apparently the most popular candidate. In recent elections, Navajo voters have strongly favored Democratic candidates.

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Barack still rules the Internet (2007-06-18 14:20)

Barack Obama regained his lead in the alexa.com ratings for traffic and reach over other Democratic candidates. Hillary Clinton had temporarily grabbed the top spot due to increased traffic arising from her YouTube campaign song contest. Ron Paul though continues to lead among all candidates after his website shot up in the rankings a little over a month ago.

Barack though continues to have the most popular candidate site in the alexa.com directory though, which takes into account both site traffic and reach over a three month period. Barack's MySpace is ranked 9th among candidate sites and his YouTube page is 13th.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Maintaining discipline in the Obama camp (2007-06-19 08:01)

I've been hearing a buzz among some Obama supporters who think the candidate should go on the offensive against Hillary Clinton. They seem to be disturbed at the constant barrage of negative media coverage and Obama's performance in some polls.

I suspect such anxieties may have driven the recent memo mishap, which some supporters were quick to defend even though it clearly went against Obama's own declared intentions of practicing a "different kind of politics."

While it may be relatively easy to get the staff in line, the task of keeping volunteers in sync with Obama's message may prove more difficult.

There really is no reason to get upset with the early polls.

In previous presidential elections, Edmund Muskie in 1972, George Wallace in 1976, Ted Kennedy in 1980, Gary Hart in 1988, Mario Cuomo in 1992 and Joe Lieberman in 2004 were early front-runners among Democrats who eventually lost.

Rudy Giuliani has been the front-runner among Republicans who generally are better at predicting eventual winners, but few Republican insiders think he will win. This is because most Republican voters right now don't realize Giuliani is pro-choice. The polls show this and they also indicate that Republicans will not elect a pro-choice nominee.

So, as the election nears and voters begin to learn more about where candidates stand on the issues, Giuliani's support will drop, or so say the pundits.

In the same sense, as the election nears Democrats will be more focused on the Iraq War and Obama is the natural choice for this issue, especially if the campaign pushes hard on this matter with their television ads and volunteer push.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama rocks AFSCME forum (2007-06-19 12:56)

Barack Obama's speech at the Take Back America Conference organized by the AFSCME labor union was reportedly stole the show and was one of his finest on record.

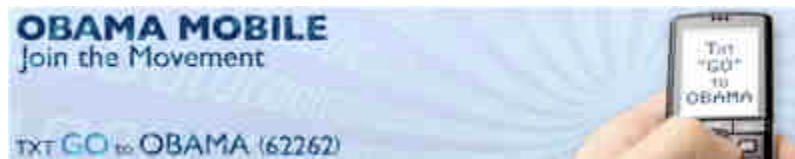
Ezra Cline wrote of the speech:

Obama gave the best speech I've seen him give – and I was at the 2004 Democratic convention. [Obama] argued that when citizens turn away and the voters accustom themselves to disappointment... a vacuum opens up. And politics, like nature, abhors vacuums. So the lobbyists and the special interests and the lawyers rush in to fill it.

Sen. Obama at Take Back America

Obama campaign releases text messaging feature

Moving forward in its efforts to connect with young people, the Obama team introduced a new texting feature at barackobama.com:



We are excited to announce that we just launched TXT to OBAMA (62262). This is a great and easy way for everyone on the go to stay connected with our movement.

Anyone can simply Text “Go” to OBAMA (62262) to sign up for text messaging.

If you text “GO” to OBAMA (62262) between now and June 30th, you will also receive a free bumper sticker.

Visit www.barackobama.com/go

There is no charge from our campaign for text messaging—participants will only have to pay their standard text messaging rates from their own providers.

More information is available at www.barackobama.com/mobile

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Obama coments on Culinary Workers Union settlement (2007-06-20 08:21)

Barack Obama released a statement on the Culinary Union Workers 226 settlement with Harrah's casino.

This is a positive step forward, but this is bigger than one contract or negotiation and it is time for other companies to follow suit. I pledged my support for the workers when I met with the negotiating committee two weeks ago and I'll be there with them on the picket line until every worker has a fair contract.

What we are fighting for is making real the idea that in this country, we value the labor of every American. That we're willing to respect that labor and reward it with a few basic guarantees - wages that can raise a family, health care if we get sick, a retirement that's dignified, a home you can afford. We will not achieve success for all workers until we have fair contracts that make it possible for workers to achieve the American dream.

Sen. Obama's rally speech in Greenville, South Carolina [EMBED]



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Obama wins straw poll (2007-06-20 13:54)

Sen. Barack Obama won a straw poll held today at the Take Back America event:

Politico and Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg conducted a straw poll among the liberal activists attending the Campaign for America's Future "Take Back America" conference. Obama came out on top with 29 % of the vote, followed by Edwards at 26 %, and Clinton at 17 %. Richardson was fourth with 9 %, and Al Gore got 8 % as a write-in candidate (his name wasn't listed on the ballot).

This may bode well for Obama's chances in obtaining endorsements of progressive unions.
Take a little photo tour of Obama's Chicago campaign headquarters.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Four picked for "Dinner with Barack" (2007-06-21 08:14)

Barack Obama's presidential campaign announced the winners of the "Dinner with Barack" contest. The dinner will take place in July at a Washington restaurant with all expenses paid for by Obama for America. No details were given on the number of participants or the amount raised by the effort. Here are the four winners:

Haile Rivera (Bronx, N.Y.): He works as a community program specialist with the Food Bank for New York City during the day which includes work with food pantries, youth programs and soup kitchens. In his spare time, he founded "Hands on New York," a non-profit organization in New York City dedicated to getting school age kids involved in civics.

Michael Griffith (Fernley, Nevada): He is a miner in western Nevada whose health care costs have tripled over recent years. This is his first time donating or participating in politics and he felt that as his family grew, so did his concern with the direction of the country.

Margaret Thomas-Jordan (Gonzales, La.): She is a working mother of two boys, age nineteen months and eleven years and she is attending school to become a nurse. Her husband was shipped to Iraq last month

and he is currently serving a 15-month tour. Health care costs have grown especially difficult for her and she is struggling with access to health care because she does not qualify as a traditional student.

Jennifer Lasko (Lake Worth, Fla.): She used to be an active member of the Republican Party and was a member of the College Republicans at Cornell University. She served as an officer in the army after graduating and is now a full time firefighter and paramedic in Lake Worth. The last campaign she participated in was Reagan-Bush in 1984.



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Obama link with scattering students (2007-06-22 00:18)

With the summer now fully upon us, college students have scattered to the four corners. They've gone backpacking, to summer jobs or internships, back to their folk's, etc. Some have graduated and have relocated to new jobs. For a campaign so strongly driven by young people, it will be important for the Obama campaign to stay connected to their student supporters.

The Obama Mobile service offering cellphone updates, alerts, wallpaper and ringtones is part of this effort.

When school reopens in the fall, Students for Obama will be tasked with regrouping and reaching out to new and transfer students.

Obama releases info on earmarks

Barack Obama became the only presidential candidate to release information on his earmark requests today.

"On Wednesday morning Obama released a list of roughly 100 proposed earmarks that he had submitted to the Appropriations Committee this year. As would be expected, the requests are for largely benign items, ranging from funding for AIDS programs to Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Chicagoland area."

Free Mobile Wallpapers:

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Txt "image1" to OBAMA

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Txt "image2" to OBAMA

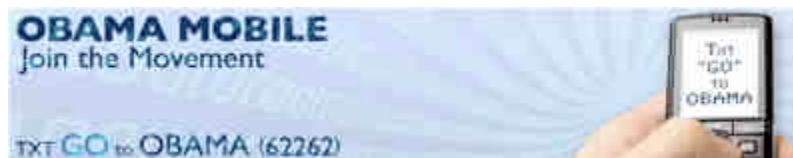
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Barack Obama as 'hope-monger' (2007-06-22 07:13)

In his speech at Take Back America, Barack Obama said that he has been called a 'peddler of hope' and a 'hope-monger.'

The characteristic of hope is the element that defines Obama's efforts to create a people's movement rather than a simple campaign to get himself elected as president.

Obama's idea, clearly stated in numerous speeches and outlined in his writings, is that real change in the country is not accomplished simply by electing a leader. Citizens must get involved in the process at all levels.

Electing a president is only the beginning, only part of the process. People must make government accountable from the local level to the highest office. They must bring about change from the bottom up.

Remember that the government at all levels charges you for everything you do. They tax you for the food you eat, for the land you live on, for the gas you need to power your vehicle. They tax your parents when you are born, and your descendants when you die.

The government also regulates what you can and cannot do in almost every detail.

So you have every reason to make sure the government is run the way you desire, and by people you support.

The government is in no position to tell you to pull yourselves up by your bootstraps when misfortune strikes you or your community. You own the government. You pay the salaries of elected officials and bureaucrats. You purchase all government infrastructure.

Barack has asked his supporters of all ages to get involved in their communities and in the democratic process and not simply to vote for him as president. He's made it clear that getting his programs through will not be easy.

Getting elected to the Oval Office is just the first step.

In order to mobilize his backers, Obama must convey the message of hope. Because people must believe change is possible. Without hope people become cynical, they stop caring and stop paying attention to the government that charges them for every move they make. When people have hope, they will continue to persevere even when things look bleak because they can visualize the possibility of a different tomorrow.



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Obama reveals sweeping ethics reform plan (2007-06-22 09:31)

Presidential candidate Barack Obama unveiled the strongest ethics reform package yet during speech today at Manchester, New Hampshire.

When I am President, I will make it absolutely clear that working in an Obama Administration is not about serving your former employer, your future employer, or your bank account – it's about serving your country, and that's what comes first. When you walk into my administration, you will not be able to

work on regulations or contracts directly related to your former employer for two years. And when you leave, you will not be able to lobby the Administration throughout the remainder of my term in office.

A lot of people have told me this is pretty tough, but I refuse to accept the Washington logic that you cannot find thousands of talented, patriotic Americans willing to devote a few years to their country without the promise of a lucrative lobbying job after they're done. I know we can find them, and in my administration, we will. When there is a bill that ends up on my desk as President, you will have five days to look online and find out what's in it before I sign it. When there are meetings between lobbyists and a government agency, we won't be going to the Supreme Court to keep it secret like Dick Cheney and his energy task force, we'll be putting them up on the Internet for every American to watch. And instead of allowing lobbyists to slip big corporate tax breaks into bills during the dead of night, we will make sure every single tax break and earmark is available to every American online. This builds on the "Google for Government" law I passed in Congress, which already allows you to see every contract, every grant, every dime of federal spending online.



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Vote Hope PAC to positively support Obama (2007-06-22 22:21)

One of the first independent political organizations (PAC) supporting a presidential candidate opened in California with the goal of banking 500,000 mail votes before the Iowa caucuses in January 2008.

The Vote Hope PAC and its website votehope2008.com was started by San Francisco lawyer and activist Steve Philipps, his wife Susan Sandler and other activists in the Bay Area.

The group plans to raise about \$3 million for a statewide vote-by-mail effort in support of Barack Obama particularly among groups with low voting turnout like young people and minorities. The plan is not only to swing California toward Barack but to increase the state's influence in the early voting process.

California voters can register their votes for Barack at:

<http://votehope2008.com/addmyvote.php>

Group takes early hit

I was alerted by Justin Cole of Media Matters that the mud started flying toward Vote Hope ride out of the starting gates.

Amy Robach of MSNBC compared the political action committee to the "swift-boat" groups of the last presidential election, even though Vote Hope's effort is not geared toward negative campaigning. Vote Hope and Media Matters both printed articles clarifying the situation.

Obama spokesperson Bill Burton responding to the report said "it is our hope that anyone who supports Obama does so directly through the campaign and not an outside group."

However, wealthy individuals and groups that have maxed out on direct contributions to Obama for America may be

looking for other independent committees like Vote Hope to support their candidate. Individuals may contribute up to \$5,000 to a PAC outside of their direct contributions to the Obama campaign. Individuals may also spend their own money without limit in supporting a candidate independently. Wealthy individuals are known to have mounted expensive independent television ad campaigns in support of political candidates.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama and a "Better Way" (2007-06-24 13:18)

At a rally in the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York, Ben Harper announced that his song – "Better Way" would be used as a campaign song by the Obama campaign. Here are the lyrics for Better Way and below a video of Ben Harper performing the song.

Better Way

I'm a living sunset
Lightning in my bones
Push me to the edge
But my will is stone

'Cause I believe in a better way

Fools will be fools
And wise will be wise
But I will look this world
Straight in the eyes

I believe in a better way
I believe in a better way

What good is a man
Who won't take a stand
What good is a cynic
With no better plan

I believe in a better way
I believe in a better way

Reality is sharp
It cuts at me like a knife

Everyone I know
Is in the fight of their life

And I believe in a better way

Take your face out of your hands

And clear your eyes

You have a right to your dream

And don't be denied

I believe in a better way

I believe in a better way

I believe in a better way [EMBED]

A lower bandwidth video of Obama's speech on ethics reform is also available on YouTube:

[EMBED]

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Barack of Ages (2007-06-24 19:53)

Sen. Barack Obama spoke before a crowd of about 10,000 United Church of Christ (UCC) members in "Doing the Lord's work is a thread that's run through our politics since the very beginning," Obama told church members. "And it puts the lie to the notion that the separation of church and state in America—a principle we all must uphold and that I have embraced as a constitutional lawyer and most importantly as a Christian—means faith should have no role in public life."

Barack is a member of the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago's South Side.

The UCC was first church to ordain an African-American, the first woman and the first openly gay pastor. It was also the first denomination to approve same-sex marriage.

FaceBook Application

There's an interesting application on Facebook at:

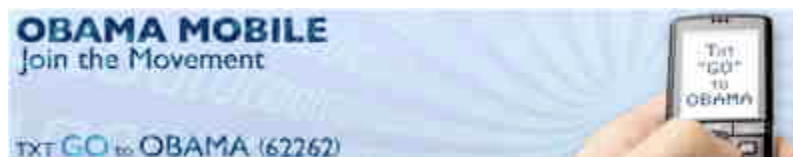
Link

It's a poll in which money is donated to candidates according to the percentage of votes they get in the poll.

I'm not entirely sure where the money comes from but I'm guessing it comes from ads generated on Facebook.

Barack Obama is clearly in the lead among Democrats. You must registered on Facebook to participate, and it costs the user nothing to raise money for the Obama campaign.

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Obama campaign to launch Iowa TV ads (2007-06-25 09:23)

Barack Obama's presidential campaign will launch its first television ad campaign this week in Iowa in what may be an attempt to raise the candidate's name recognition.

Some polls have shown that about 25 percent of adults still are not familiar with Barack Obama. Early polling often reflects a candidate's name recognition.

Among other possibilities is that the campaign will test which messages "click" with Iowa voters.

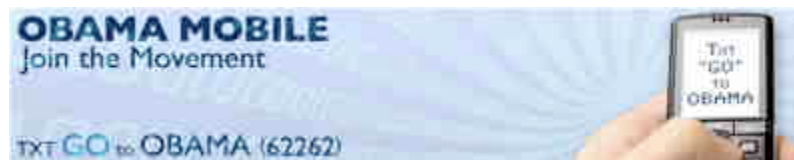
Two television ads will be used for this initial limited campaign.

A 60-second commercial, called "Choices," features Harvard Professor Laurence Tribe praising the decision Obama made after graduating from Harvard Law School to become a community organizer rather than a corporate lawyer.

The other 30-second spot, titled "Carry," has Illinois State Sen. Kirk Dillard, a Republican, speaking about Obama's work in the Illinois Legislature, where Dillard praises him for supporting ethics reform, expanding child care and health coverage and tax credits for low-income workers.

Running ads this early could be a waste of money and the move might be meant to placate supporters worried about Obama's poll numbers, which have stalled recently.

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2Q fundraising enters home stretch (2007-06-25 15:41)

Barack Obama sent a fundraising letter today in the last week of the 2nd quarter that ends in June.

Obama will try to show that he is indeed "sustainable" in terms of fundraising, a question some raised after his spectacular first quarter returns.

Here is the copy of Obama's appeal:

Dear Friend,

Make a donation
and share your
story of inspiration

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BarackObama.com/inspire Candidates typically spend a week like this – right before the critical June 30th financial reporting deadline – on the phone day and night, begging Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs to write huge checks.

Not me. Our campaign has rejected the money-for-influence game and refused to accept funds from registered federal lobbyists and political action committees.

But there are serious financial consequences to that decision.

Cutting off the flow of easy Washington money means we have to work harder. Instead of relying on a handful of powerful interests, we must bring together hundreds of thousands of supporters, each owning an individual piece of our movement.

It's one thing to talk about financing campaigns differently. It's another for us to take that risk and put our trust in one another.

The June 30th deadline will prove that this era of broken politics and widespread cynicism is coming to a close. We're ready for that change, and together we can turn the page.

The rest of the country, and the world, is watching. They want to see if we can shake up the politics of the past and set the tone for this election and the future of our democracy.

You have shown your support before, and now you can share your inspiration.

Make a donation of \$50 and be a part of something big:

barackobama.com/inspire

But don't stop there.

If we're going to get hundreds of thousands of people to join our movement, we need to do something different. That's why I'm turning the rest of this fundraising drive over to you.

This is the last you will hear from me until after the June 30th deadline.

From here on out, your stories and your passion will determine our success. When you make a donation, I want you to share what inspired you to join our movement. For the rest of the week, those stories – including your story – will drive the results.

Something powerful and personal inspired you to join our movement. It may be your family's rising health care costs or a relative fighting in Iraq. You might be fed up with corruption in Washington or frustrated by how petty and divisive our national politics has become.

Whatever your reasons, they will connect with someone else and they will make a difference. Make your donation now and share what inspired you to support our movement for change:

barackobama.com/inspire

Pundits and Washington insiders use these fundraising deadlines to measure the viability of campaigns. They like to judge potential in dollars, as if money alone somehow indicates widespread support.

But we measure success in people – the number of supporters giving to the campaign, and the number of donations they make to show their commitment.

We can get at least 10,000 people involved this week, but only if you take control.

Each of us must reach out to the people we know – our friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors – and inspire them to join our movement for change.

Donate now. Share your story and spread the word:

barackobama.com/inspire

Watch our website and your inbox for real stories from supporters like you.

This fundraising deadline is an important challenge for our campaign, but I know I can put my trust in you.

I have faith that we will succeed, and it won't be because of me – it will be because each of you has the power to inspire.

Thank you.



Barack Obama

P.S. – We’ve built something together that’s bigger than me or my candidacy. I just made my own donation to this movement and wrote a short note about how you’ve inspired me:

I’ve seen what can happen when people who love their country come together and decide it’s time for change. As a community organizer in the South Side of Chicago, I was part of a movement that turned around neighborhoods that others had given up on. I know what’s possible for this country. I know we can build a new kind of politics that recognizes we’re all connected as one people, that we rise or fall as one nation, and that we’re ready to turn the page and start anew.

Who can you inspire? Get started here:

barackobama.com/inspire

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Inspired by Barack Obama (2007-06-25 22:42)

Many people have responded to Team Obama’s donation drive asking supporters to tell what inspired them to support Barack Obama.

A few videos and quotes are included below:

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Amy, from Hilliard, Florida writes:

My children are my inspiration. I know that may seem common to say that, but it is true. I see in the five of them the future, and it is so important to me that I do what I can for them. I want them to have an America worth fighting for, and worthy of them. I want them to have a home, and a safe place to live and raise their own children.

...My decisions in the political arena are based them. When I support a candidate it is because I believe that person will help this country to a better place. That is why I am supporting you Senator Obama. I believe you want a better future for your own children just as I do.

Daren, from Smithfield, Utah writes: There is tremendous human suffering that exists because health care is not accessible to persons with disabilities. I believe Barack will take action to relieve this suffering and ensure that all Americans can afford to receive the services they need. I support Barack because I truly believe he will support the people of this country.

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IFRAME: <http://barackobama.com>

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama comments on Middle East summit (2007-06-26 10:22)

Sen. Barack Obama released a statement on today's Middle East summit on the situation between Israel and Palestine:

"Today's summit in Sharm el-Sheikh is encouraging. I support the efforts of Prime Minister Olmert, President Mubarak, and King Abdullah to strengthen President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad – two Palestinian leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to non-violence and achieving peace with Israel. These leaders seek peace and deserve the support of the international community."

"I applaud Prime Minister Olmert's announcements that Israel will release Palestinian prisoners as a gesture of goodwill. We hope that this goodwill, along with the unfrozen tax revenues being sent from Israel to the Palestinian Authority, will help strengthen a Palestinian partner for peace with Israel."

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How much money does Obama need? (2007-06-26 13:36)

With the second quarter nearly at an end, how much money will Barack Obama need to fund his campaign?

Recently, Joe Trippi, the former Howard Dean guy now working for John Edwards, said that Edwards will need \$40 million to pursue a four state strategy targeting Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina. That would average out to about \$10 million a state, although the actual share used for each state could vary widely.

Because Edwards is not able to raise the same kind of money as Obama and Clinton, the hope is that a good showing in the early states will attract new money and supporters for Super Duper Tuesday on Feb. 5, 2008.

If we use the figure of \$40 million also for the Obama effort in the four early states, they will probably raise that much and more by this quarter.

That would mean that the next two quarters and the five weeks in the first quarter of next year could presumably be used to raise money for Feb. 5.

There could be 20 states including heavyweights like California and New York participating in Super Duper Tuesday also pegged as "Tsunami Tuesday" for its potential to shape the 2008 primary election.

If Obama can raise at least \$20 million in each of the next two quarters and then maybe another \$10 million in the first five weeks of 2008, he can have about \$50 to \$60 million for Tsunami Tuesday.

On the high end that would average out to about \$3 million a state although certainly the campaign would look to target the states with the most potential. California alone can easily eat up \$20 million in a statewide race.

However, if Obama does well in the four early states before Feb. 5, he could vastly increase his monetary, organizational and grassroots support. The momentum of the early states often acts as "king-maker."

One could say that a reasonable goal would be about \$40-50 million for the four early states, and a reserve of \$40-60 million for Tsunami Tuesday, not counting any money raised during or after the early state voting.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Be Inspired, Be Counted (2007-06-26 17:14)

Check out Barack Obama's new fundraising meter from the official homepage:

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Michelle Obama: 'I'm married to the The Answer' (2007-06-27 14:27)

Michelle Obama worked Harlem and wealthy Central Park West for her husband Barack yesterday.

"I am married to The Answer," she told a cheering Harlem community center crowd . "And I'm not just saying that because I'm his wife."

Michelle said she wasn't quite sure of what to make of a young Barack Obama when she first met him. "I'd never met a black man from Hawaii before!" she said- but grew fond of him quickly. "He was cute," said Michelle, "and that helped. But what really got me was watching him organize community members in Chicago on a grassroots level."

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[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama seeks record donors in 2Q (2007-06-28 07:11)

Obama for America easily reached a goal of 10,000 donors in the last week of the second quarter, and now it has a new target.

The campaign wants to set a records of 250,000 donors for the year at the end of the second quarter, which at the time of this writing would mean about 6000 more donors by June 30.

Considering that many of Obama's young supporters are off for the summer, the ability of the campaign to raise cash this fast is impressive. Here is the letter from campaign manager David Plouffe announcing the new goal:

Dear Friend,

Join the drive to reach 250,000 donors – a quarter of a million people – by June 30th, it will send a powerful message that our movement is both bigger and deeper than anything presidential politics has ever seen.



Be inspired and be counted:
BarackObama.com/inspire

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I have some extraordinary news for you.

We crunched the numbers last night, and because we hit our goal so quickly – 10,000 people have already donated to the campaign this week – things have changed.

Suddenly, we're within reach of something no presidential campaign has ever dreamed of at this stage.

With your support, we could reach 250,000 donors for the year by the June 30th filing deadline.

We have a chance to seize this moment and make history.

The media and the Washington pundits are so focused on the money chase that they have missed the bigger story. Each donation to this campaign is a declaration of commitment to the idea that we can change our politics and elect a leader who will inspire and unite this country.

If you join the drive to reach 250,000 donors – a quarter of a million people – by June 30th, it will send a powerful message that our movement is both bigger and deeper than anything presidential politics has ever seen.

The count is live on BarackObama.com , and your donation can make that number grow right now. Show your commitment and be counted before the June 30th deadline:

<http://www.barackobama.com/inspire>

This campaign has become a vehicle for hundreds of thousands of Americans who believe that the people can take control of the political process again.

Who are the nearly 250,000 people to give so far? Watch some of them in their own words:



Gregory Smith came to the U.S. from

Jamaica in 1976. His family was reunited in New York City where he is living the American dream.



Lauren Dula is originally from North East Pennsylvania. Her father is a truck driver and her mother is a secretary, and she and her brother are the first generation in their family to go to college.



Barbara Rubin is a Boca Raton, Florida resident who suffers from multiple sclerosis. Three years ago, due to her condition, she was forced to retire from her job.

We are one movement owned by nearly 250,000 people like them, not Washington lobbyists or political action committees.

While the professional pundits are busy handicapping a big-money horse race, we have a more important goal: getting more people involved and owning a piece of this campaign.

We've grown by almost 140,000 new donors this quarter, and in the next three days we can set an unprecedented record – but only if you donate now.

The state of the presidential race has the potential to shift dramatically in the next 72 hours. Please make sure you are counted during this final push:

<http://www.barackobama.com/inspire>

There are some who have denied that a movement like ours is possible, but the reality is clear.

Individual people with purpose, passion and the will to make a small sacrifice can build a movement unlike anything presidential politics has ever seen. And we're only just getting started.

Let's make history together on June 30th.

Thank you,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

P.S. – This week we've posted thousands of personal stories from donors in text and video on our home-page. Chances are you'll find one that inspires you there:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Watch Barack at PBS debate tonight (2007-06-28 12:11)

Tonight, Barack Obama and other presidential candidates will participate in the PBS debate moderated by Tavis Smiley at Howard University, a traditionally African American college.

It may very well be that Obama will have reached the campaign goal of 250,000 donations by the time the debate starts tonight at 9 p.m. EST. Colin Powell will be on Larry King tonight and it will be interesting to see whether he endorses Barack as some have speculated .

Obama releases statement on Supreme Court ruling

Sen. Obama challenged a Supreme Court decision on diversity today calling on Congress to combat the re-segregation of America's schools.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling has placed a serious obstacle in the way of achieving the vision of America first outlined in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, where we see racially integrated education as the best way to reflect our great diversity, unite our nation, and make real our promise of equal opportunity for all.

"Though we have come a long way in those fifty years since *Brown*, our schools remain segregated by race, as well as resources and opportunities. Three-quarters of black and Latino school children attend predominantly minority schools and white children are even more likely to attend racially isolated schools. And yet, hundreds of school districts across the country have taken noble, yet modest, steps to address this problem, while still accommodating parental and student choice. They have done so because they too believe that our nation's prosperity depends on our children learning to understand each other better, work together, and solve problems together

"This wrong-headed ruling underscores the critical importance of a President's appointments to the Supreme Court and a Justice Department's commitment to civil rights enforcement. It is the but the latest in a string of decisions by this conservative bloc of Justices that turn back the clock on decades of advancement and progress in the struggle for equality. Chief Justice Robert's opinion reflects a disturbing view of the Constitution that equates voluntary integration with Jim Crow segregation – a view that is both legally and morally wrong. The policies that led to racially diverse schools in Seattle and Louisville are a far cry from the policies of racial subordination that led to blacks-only and whites-only schools in the pre-Brown era. To equate the two is to turn a blind eye to our nation's history.

"I filed a brief in these cases, along with several of my colleagues in the Senate, which explained to the Court that a racially diverse learning environment has a profoundly positive educational impact on all students, and I remain devoted to working toward this goal. The Congress has the constitutional power and responsibility to address the resegregation of our schools, and I am committed to using that authority. I will immediately call for hearings to determine the most effective steps that Congress can take to move forward. And as President, I will appoint Supreme Court justices who understand the constitutional importance of *Brown*. Those Justices will ultimately vindicate *Brown's* promise, as Justice Breyer and today's dissenters put it, of 'one law, one Nation, one people, not simply as a matter of legal

principle but in terms of how we actually live.”

Join the drive to reach 250,000 donors – a quarter of a million people – by June 30th, it will send a powerful message that our movement is both bigger and deeper than anything presidential politics has ever seen.



Be inspired and be counted:
BarackObama.com/inspire

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Will Barack Obama raise \$50+ million? (2007-06-28 15:48)

News sources reported that an Obama aide characterized estimates of \$40 million for the candidate's second quarter fundraising as "hysterical." One staff member was reported to have said the campaign would be happy raising \$20 million.

Most estimates I've seen recently are in the \$32 to \$36 million range.

However, it may be that the final figure will be more like \$50 to \$55 million.

I didn't consult a psychic to figure this out but simply crunched some numbers based on my observations of the campaign over the second quarter.

In the last quarter, Obama raised \$25 million from 104,000 donations. He averaged about \$247 per donation.

From my observations, there is no reason to believe that the average donation has fallen much. Certainly it could have, and there really is not enough information to say anything certain.

Many Obama supporters did max out in contributions during the first quarter. However, Obama's unexpectedly solid fundraising may have convinced many big rollers, who hesitated initially, that they should cover their bases with Obama.

Late in the second quarter, Barack had his biggest day yet raising more than \$1.5 million in Chicago. This indicates that the bundlers still have room to move around in. Indeed, I know of some "deep pockets" here in my own area who want Obama to come to town before maxing on their donations.

The offline fundraising at least appeared to keep pace with the online efforts.

If that's true, and Obama averages about the same per donation as in the first quarter, he would raise about \$56

million. That's based on the campaign goal of a year-long 350,000 contributions by the end of this quarter, or about 242,000 donations in the second quarter. So, 242,000 people x \$231 equals about 55.9 million.

If we "lowball" this and presume that Obama will average only 90 percent of the average donation last quarter, he will still raise over \$50 million.

Of course, the average donation could be much smaller than it was in the previous quarter. However, Barack already had the lowest average donation of the big candidates. In comparison, John Edwards raised an average \$350 per donation, and Hillary had \$520 per donation.

The Obama team publicly stated today that the average donation this time is "likely" to be less than in the last quarter, which suggests that it could be the same, which suggests that it's probably near that mark already.

To be "conservative" though, I'm going to predict that Obama will make at least \$45 million.

We'll know for sure on Jul. 15, and probably before then when the Obama campaign publicly releases its numbers.



Be inspired and be counted:

BarackObama.com/inspire

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Debate buzz (2007-06-29 11:25)

The PBS debate last night was difficult to watch because of the pressure on candidates to rush their answers.

In the end, the attempt to cover so much ground may it difficult to remember anything the candidates said of substance.

However, we should remember that these debates tend to be about poise and beauty anyway rather than examination of issues. Most of the great turning moments in past debates centered around a candidate's un-presidential behavior or appearance rather than on anything they actually said during the event.

You can watch the taped video of the debate at the PBS website:

http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/special/forums/?campaign=pbshomefeatu_res_1_allamericanpresidentialforums_2007-06-29

The campaign has compiled some of the positive reviews of Barack's performance on their website:

- Politico's Roger Simon: Spoke with passion and conviction and has gotten better and more confident with each debate, which bodes well for him because we have plenty of debates to go. He had a certain kind of homefield advantage as the only African-American onstage, but he used it modestly. While others could show sympathy, he could show empathy. "We have made enormous progress," he said, "but the progress we have made is not good enough." And he did speak with refreshing candor when he talked about the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the black community, and said: "We must overcome the stigma that still exists. We don't talk about this. We don't talk about this in our schools. We don't talk about this in our churches. It is an aspect of homophobia that we don't talk about it." Click here to read the article in Politico
- Democratic Consultant Jenny Backus: Democratic consultant Jenny Backus said Obama's effort to speak to whites and blacks resulted in his best debate yet. "Obama took his performance to a different level by showing the ability to have a conversation that was about race that wasn't just one way," Backus said. "He was talking to both whites and blacks in his answers." Click here to read the article in Forbes
- Washington Post's Chris Cillizza: Speaking of nice moments, Obama showed his ease in the debate a few minutes ago. After Sen. Joe Biden (Del.) said that both he and Obama had been tested for AIDS, Obama jumped in to note that he had been tested with his wife, Michelle – jokingly adding that he didn't want anyone to think anything "funny" was going on. The crowd laughed as PBS showed Michelle on screen. The moment showed how Obama has grown in the first three debates; he appears relaxed and comfortable tonight. Click here to read the blog post in the Washington Post
- Slate: Howard University was Barack Obama's venue. As the only African American candidate he received the loud shout-outs from the audience. Click here to read the article in Slate Magazine
- The Nation's John Nichols: Illinois Senator Barack Obama, the only black candidate on the stage, was especially eloquent in his denunciation of the current court's assault on the protections set in place by the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling that barred state-sponsored school segregation. Speaking of the courageous students, parents and civil rights lawyers who fought to bring the Brown v. Board of Education case to the high court more than half a century ago, he mused, "If it were not for them, I would not be standing here." Click here to read the blog post in The Nation



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Cornel West supporting Barack Obama? (2007-06-29 17:43)

Cornel West said he was a "critical supporter" of Barack Obama and that he was in "his camp" during an interview with Amy Goodman on DemocracyNow.

West also had praise for John Edwards but considered Hillary Clinton still a bit too "neo-liberal."

CORNEL WEST: I think that we're beginning to move to some of the serious subject matters, but we've still got a long way to go, though, Amy. You know and I know that the fundamental question is always, what is the quality of service to everyday people, what the depth of love and sacrifice to empowering everyday people. When you look at what, in fact, Obama, Edwards, Clinton — let's say the top three, as it were — there's no doubt that Edwards has an impressive concern about poverty and so forth. And Brother Obama — and you know I am a critical supporter of my dear Brother Obama — I think that his campaign is kicking in, but it's still got to be more intensified when it comes to focusing on issues that concern progressives. And I think Hillary Clinton has a long way to go, because she's carrying a baggage, as it were, of the kind of neoliberalist — the neoliberal project of her husband.

But I think that we're going to — beginning tonight, we're going to see a turn. We're going to see a real focus on the criminal justice system, prison-industrial complex; wealth inequality; imperial invasion, not just in Iraq, but threatening Iran, and so forth and so on. And I'm hoping, of course, that my dear Brother Obama really emerges, and I'm hoping and praying that he does. But most importantly, you and I know it's really about causes, it's really about principles, it's about ideals, and we're fighting for democracy now, as you rightly describe and name your wonderful show, my sister.

AMY GOODMAN: When you say, Professor West, a critical supporter of Obama, what do you mean? Where do you think he hasn't come out strong enough?

CORNEL WEST: Well, I'm in his camp, but I'm just — I put pressure — I think that he's got to be more bold. I think that he's got to be more courageous, in terms of highlighting issues of the poor, issues of working people, the legacies of white supremacy that are still very, very real. And I know he's got to be a politician about this, on the one hand, because he's got a larger constituency, but you know and I know we're looking for statesmen. And I think my dear Brother Obama has a potential to be a great statesman, but he's in process. And we're putting — we're pushing and hoping that he enacts this kind of statesmanship, which has to do so much with bold unflinching honesty and candor regarding the levels of injustice in our society.

AMY GOODMAN: And when you talk about Hillary Clinton, referring to her neoliberal background and agenda, what do you mean by that?

CORNEL WEST: I mean that neoliberalism is spent, you know? It was opportunistic. It looked good on the surface, but it had very little substance when it came to poor people, when it came to working people, when it came to the crime bills that have generated, escalating incarceration of so many poor people, and so forth. She's either going to have to shift in a progressive way, or the old neoliberalism, I think, is going to run out of gas.

AMY GOODMAN: Edwards?

CORNEL WEST: Edwards is — you know, he's an impressive brother. He's not getting the traction that he wants, I think, but the issues of poverty and universal healthcare, I'm impressed. I'm hoping my dear Brother Obama actually begins to out-progressivize Edwards, as it were. But I have great respect for Brother Edwards and his wife, of course, who we all want to pull for and myself, as a Christian, I pray for.

Here is a funny spoof on Cornel West by "Clifton East."
[EMBED]



Be inspired and be counted:
BarackObama.com/inspire

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Fox Chicago (2007-06-30 17:53:00)

WWW.Obamatracker.com has a variety of articles about Obama and his policies. It might be of interest to you.

3,000 attend Barack Obama's Minnesota kickoff fundraiser (2007-06-30 21:13)

A crowd of 3,000 paid between \$15 and \$25 to attend a grassroots fundraiser for candidate Barack Obama's Minnesota kickoff Saturday.

Obama was introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison and Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak, who were the first mayor and congressman to endorse Obama.

The low ticket entrance is part of an Obama campaign strategy geared at the senator's many young supporters. Obama's online fundraising efforts have easily topped the campaign goals of 250,000 donors and 350,000 donations for the year.

Barack Obama Minnesota Community Kickoff

[EMBED]



Be inspired and be counted:
BarackObama.com/inspire

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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1.7 July

Barack Obama quietly smashes record (2007-07-02 05:59)

In the weeks leading to the second quarter deadline, the press painted a bleak picture of the Obama campaign. Using poll numbers they made it seem that Hillary was an unstoppable juggernaut.

They should have known better though. Early polls, especially among Democrats and in primaries without a strong incumbent, don't mean much in predicting the final outcome. Many polls have shown that Hillary's support is soft, based probably on the fact that people recognize her name more than the other candidates.

The Obama camp made little effort to combat the media spin, instead concentrating on perfecting its grassroots organizing plan. The fundraising strategy that worked so well in the first quarter was further developed this time around with numerous low-ticket events.

When reporting time came around, the Obama camp revealed it had smashed previous records for cash raised in a single quarter. Maybe not to the extent predicted by Carville or in this blog but still quite impressively when the stats are analyzed.

Obama raised \$32.5 million compared to Hillary's \$27 million and \$9 million for Edwards. More importantly \$31 million of Barack's cash is available for the primary compared to only \$21 million for Hillary.

Barack thus pulls ahead of the "front-runner" in primary election funds.

As some \$6 million of Hillary's donations are restricted for a possible general election bid, it probably means that many of her donors this quarter have maxed out in primary contributions.

Barack repeated his performance last quarter in attracting record numbers of small contributors. These supporters may repeat donations in the future just as donors from last quarter gave again this time around.

A supporter who gives money makes an investment in the campaign indicating a greater depth of commitment. Many of these donors may become reliable volunteers for the ground campaign as well.

It's an extraordinary accomplishment for a campaign that just started six months ago. In comparison, Barack's top rivals have been preparing for many years.

Team Obama has every reason to be joyous and proud, but not overconfident. A lot of work still must be done to raise their candidate's name recognition. Volunteers need to prepare for field operations further down the road particularly in getting Obama supporters to the polls or to vote by mail.

✖ [EMBED]

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Barack comments on Libby, 2Q success (2007-07-02 16:28)

Barack Obama released a statement on the Pres. George W. Bush's commuting of the Lewis "Scooter" Libby sentence today:

This decision to commute the sentence of a man who compromised our national security cements the legacy of an Administration characterized by a politics of cynicism and division, one that has consistently placed itself and its ideology above the law. This is exactly the kind of politics we must change so we can begin restoring the American people's faith in a government that puts the country's progress ahead of the bitter partisanship of recent years.

Barack also sent out earlier today an email where he talks of the campaign's second quarter fundraising success and includes a link with a breakdown of progress made during the quarter. Online, some 100,000 people donated altogether and there are 230,000 members of barackobama.com.

Dear Friend,

✖ A lot of people are talking about money today.

It's true – together we raised a significant amount over the past few months. And your generosity is what will make it possible to mount a winning campaign. For that, I cannot thank you enough.

But the money isn't the whole story.

The most extraordinary and deeply humbling result is the people – more than 258,000 of you – who have taken ownership of this campaign.

A number that big is a thunderclap over the political process. It means our campaign has more supporters than any campaign in history at this point in an election, and it's a wake-up call to our current politics.

It means ordinary people are coming together in unprecedented numbers to take back their government.

It means you are defying the pundits and Washington insiders, rejecting their cynicism and negativity, and embracing the hope that we can change things for the better.

It means we are building a movement so big, so deep, and so personal that our collective voice is undeniable.

If you visited our website over the past week, you saw the thousands of personal stories our donors have chosen to share – stories that ring true with passion and a hunger for something new.

But even though so many of us share a common goal, our success is not inevitable.

While everyone is marveling at our numbers and patting us on the back, we need to focus on the next question, “Where do we go from here?”

The answer is as simple as it is challenging: We organize.

As a community organizer in the South Side of Chicago, I witnessed how change works from the grassroots up. I saw how people working together with a common purpose can transform their communities and give them new life. The same is true for our country.

We need to start in our own communities, by reaching out to our friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors. We need to identify our common ground and work together for the common good.

And we have one tremendous advantage that no other campaign has: the solidarity of more than 258,000 people working with us.

We’ve put together a brief overview of what we’ve accomplished over these past three months: *Where We Stand*.

Thank you for your generosity and support. It’s impressive and inspiring, but we have a long way to go.

We’ve demonstrated that we can defy expectations and turn the political process on its head. Now it’s time to combine our personal stories, build on our milestones of success, and take the next step.

Thank you for being part of this movement for change – this is just the beginning. ✕

Barack Obama

✕

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✕

Hill calls Bill over Barack bucks (2007-07-03 07:59)

Hillary Clinton is leading in most polls and is raking in big endorsements, but the recent war-chest numbers appear to have her campaign concerned.

Hillary is unleashing her not-so-secret weapon, husband Bill Clinton, who will begin appearing regularly with the candidate. Although many of her big-money donors appear to have maxed out in direct contributions to the campaign, they do have other options.

Supporters with deep pockets could opt to donate to independent committees known as 527s after the tax code that governs their existence. They can give up to \$5,000 to a 527 that directly supports Hillary although none apparently exist yet.

Very wealthy persons could also choose to spend money independently in support of a candidate, and there no limit to these types of expenditures.

Bill Clinton is known for his fundraising prowess and will almost certainly be used to help boost Hillary’s coffers.

Barack Obama is not exactly wanting in deep pocket supporters even if his campaign is characterized more by the average person including many who have never donated to a political candidate before. While about 22 percent of Hillary’s 2Q contributions were targeted at the general election, indicating supporters who had maxed on primary donations, only about 4.6 percent of Obama’s cash is for the general election.

Still, wealthy Obama endorsers like George Soros and Oprah Winfrey could choose to mount independent campaigns supporting the senator in the future.

Grassroots roots volunteers can also spend limited amounts of money without having to file election reports. And its not unknown for ordinary supporters to open 527s as well.

Certainly, Obama's massive volunteer support base has already spent large amounts of money in efforts like the Walk for Change, tabling and other events that doesn't show up in the fundraising reports.

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The inevitable Dean comparisons (2007-07-03 11:12)

Barack Obama's spectacular second quarter cash has brought out again the old expected comparisons to the Howard Dean campaign.

Like Obama, Dean raised a lot of money online but ultimately lost in the primary. The former governor did keep his movement going and eventually became head of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), a position he still holds today. Howard and his "Deaniacs" are locked in a struggle with the old establishment represented by groups like the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) over the direction of the Democratic Party.

The Dean-Obama mantra generally has Obama facing the same problems as Dean in expanding beyond his obviously strong netroots support.

Dean's supporters did look something like a cross-section of the internet community, or even just a certain segment of that community. He had problems diversifying his base.

Anyone involved in the Obama campaign knows that this is not the case with the senator's supporters. He base is not perfect. He could do much better, for example, among Latinos and some polls suggest he needs to outreach more to lower income people. However, overall Obama's team looks very much like a cross-section of America.

Obama's success is likely due to many factors. He started off much better-known nationally than Dean. His 2004 Democratic Convention speech and successful senatorial campaign made him the rising star of the Democratic Party and he was presented as such repeatedly by the national media. Two of his books have become best-sellers and he managed to establish a John F. Kennedy-like following among young people even before he announced his candidacy. Because he is the first truly viable African American candidate for president, he naturally has attracted strong support among that important segment of the Democratic voting population. Many of Obama's supporters did not learn about him on the internet.

However one looks at it, Obama looks better positioned now than Dean ever did during his campaign in terms of the breadth of his support. He already has expanded much beyond the netroots and this will help him also with future outreach.

Obama's consulting team might not be the most experienced in terms of nationwide campaigns of this sort, but they have performed admirably up to this point. They also have the advantage of learning from mistakes of the Dean campaign. They started earlier this time around than Dean and that will help a great deal.

The Dean machine didn't really get rolling until the fall before the primary election started and they really had to rush before the distractions of the Christmas season arrived. With Obama, they will probably have raised more than \$70 million by September of 2007, and they already have much of their infrastructure positioned in the early states.

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Obama's 'non-fizzle' causes ripples (2007-07-04 11:28)

When Barack Obama raised \$25 million in the first quarter, the word was out that he could not sustain the momentum. Indeed, the press reports lately have claimed that Obama's media hype was ending and that Hillary Clinton again was the unstoppable force. With the latest fundraising news though, it appears that instead Barack Obama is the unmovable object or more correctly the forward-moving object as he topped all his previous efforts. More than \$10 million was raised online, for example, in the second quarter compared to about \$7 million in 1Q. And this should be a rather slow period for Barack because of the summer break. BarackObama.com has certainly slowed down in relation to the competitor sites since school began letting out at the nation's campuses. When Barack's younger supporters settle in again, we should expect an upward surge in action. Many of the other candidates saw their 2Q fundraising efforts go southward including John Edwards, John McCain and Mitt Romney. Romney lent his campaign \$6 million of his own money to keep things from looking too bad. Of the front-runners, Obama, Clinton and Giuliani improved on last quarter's performance. But Obama's efforts looked the most sustainable. He is drawing from supporters who aren't reaching the legal contribution limits, and can be approached again and again.



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Obama too likable? (2007-07-05 09:33)

A sign that Barack Obama's campaign is making headway came in recent articles and blogs questioning whether the senator was "too likable" or not. Certainly it would be favorable for Obama is that was the biggest question that could be mustered against his candidacy. I don't see need for a change in course for the Obama campaign based on poll numbers as suggested in some blogs. Joe Biden is right when he says that most Americans are not deciding on a candidate at this time. Voters in this country don't typically start thinking seriously about candidates until maybe two months before they have to vote. Many only make up their mind in the last week, or even in the voting booth itself. They behave quite differently than political junkies who often make their choice many months or even years ahead of time. In other news, an Ohio man with a large knife and without identification was arrested outside of Barack Obama's hotel in Iowa yesterday. The Secret Service does not consider the man, Davit Zakaryan, 24, as a threat to the presidential candidate.



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alyceclover (2007-07-10 22:18:00)

Was reading a USA Today story comments earlier and someone wondered why people like him. Most every comment on the article was negative. The usual "He's a Muslim" (Fox news told me so) garbage. I like him because he has the audacity to want to change things for the better. No more "this is the way it has always been done..."

Live Earth Concerts (2007-07-05 13:23)

BarackObama.com set up a page in support of the Live Earth concerts organized by Al Gore and friends. The concerts held in cities across the globe will take place on 7/7/07 with the theme of uniting to combat global warming. Here is the video released by Obama on this worldwide event:

Do you want to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050?

The organizers of Live Earth should be proud of their achievement. 7.7.07 is likely to be one of the most significant days of action in the campaign against global climate change. It could not come at a more important time.

Our dependence on fuels such as oil and coal is jeopardizing our planet, setting off a chain of dangerous weather patterns that could condemn future generations to global catastrophe. We see the effects of global climate change in our communities and around the world in record drought, famine, and forest fires. Hurricanes and typhoons are growing in intensity, and rapidly melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland could raise global sea levels high enough to swallow up large portions of every coastal city and town.

Despite the urgency, there are those who believe America cannot come together to find a solution. Politicians are afraid to ask the oil, auto, and electricity industries to do their part, and those industries hire armies of lobbyists to make sure it stays that way.

We can do better. As President, I will move to limit the causes of global warming by requiring that all transportation fuels sold in the U.S. contain 10 percent less carbon by 2020. We can decrease oil consumption by increasing fuel economy standards to save half a trillion gallons of gasoline by 2028. These are the types of changes that we'll have to make if we're serious about limiting the effects of global warming.

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From Doubt to Hope (2007-07-06 07:57)

New Hampshire for Obama is launching the "From Doubt to Hope" book tour across the state that will feature the candidate's book "Dreams of my Father."

Close supporters of Barack will visit 11 New Hampshire towns and cities during the summer tour reading excerpts

from the senator's best-selling book. There is an event today at Second Run Books in Portsmouth. The idea is to inform undecided voters about Obama's early life and how it shaped his politics.

New Videos

Check out these recent videos of Barack, Michelle and supporters.

Obama's playing cards on the road in Iowa on July 4

[EMBED]

Obama on education at National Education Association

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama speech in Colorado

[EMBED]

Supporters at the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans

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Barack Obama is Earth-friendly (2007-07-06 20:19)

The Live Earth concerts are underway. I saw Al Gore's opening speech in Sydney tonight. Televised action here in the U.S. starts at 4 a.m. EST on the Sundance Channel. Most of the performances at that time will be in places like London.

Barack Obama has outlined some key points of his environmental and energy policy on a special page at his website:

For all of our military might and economic dominance, America's Achilles heel is the oil we cannot live without. Oil fuels 96 percent of our transportation needs, and it is critical to the manufacture of millions of goods and products in this country. The interruption of even a small amount of oil for just a few days could cause economic panic and soaring prices. A serious embargo could cause untold disaster. Senator Obama has been a Senate leader in pushing for a comprehensive national energy policy and has introduced a number of bills to get us closer to the goal of energy independence. By putting aside partisan battles, he has found common ground on fuel economy standards, renewable fuels, and clean coal.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Our Fuels

The oil used in the U.S. transportation sector accounts for one-third of our nation's emissions of greenhouse gases. Barack Obama's plan will reduce carbon in our fuel supply by establishing a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard. The standard would require that all transportation fuels sold in the U.S. contain 5 percent less carbon by 2015 and 10 percent less carbon by 2020. The legislation would let market forces decide the most efficient way to reduce emissions and would spur significant investment in renewable fuels, such as corn and cellulosic ethanol, and biodiesel made from plant oils such as soybeans. According to one estimate, Obama's legislation would reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 180 million metric tons in 2020. This is the equivalent of taking over 30 million cars off the road in 2020.

Breaking the Fuel Efficiency Logjam

Senator Obama led a bipartisan effort to raise CAFE fuel economy standards, which have remained frozen for 20 years because of congressional gridlock. He developed an innovative approach to gradually increase CAFE standards while protecting the financial future of American automakers. The resulting Obama-Lugar-Biden bill would establish concrete targets for annual CAFE increases while giving industry the flexibility to meet those targets. The Obama-Lugar-Biden Fuel Economy Reform Act has gained the support of Senators who had never supported CAFE increases before, and the basic concept of the legislation was endorsed by President Bush in his 2007 State of the Union address.

"There's a way Congress can get moving. Senator Barack Obama plans to reintroduce a bill that would set a 4 percent annual increase in efficiency as a target. . . . Given the long Congressional stalemate, the Obama bill could be an important first step. It commands some bipartisan support, and unlike Mr. Bush's approach, it promises real as opposed to hypothetical results."

-New York Times, Editorial, January 30, 2007

Making a Deal With Detroit: Health for Hybrids

Senator Obama introduced legislation encouraging automakers to make fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles by helping the companies shoulder the health care costs of their retirees. Domestic automakers would get health care assistance in exchange for their investing 50 percent of the savings into technology to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles.

"(Healthcare for Hybrids') stroke of genius is in connecting the dots - decreasing oil consumption is clearly a top national priority but it will not happen without a national investment."

-Walter McManus, director of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute's Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation

"Obama has come up with an audacious proposal that has won the backing of enviros and the United Auto Workers (UAW), and should win the support of both the cash-strapped auto industry and motorists suffering from sticker shock. . . . Obama's proposal may be characteristic of his work, finding support across class (and other) lines."

-The American Prospect, June, 2006

Expanding the Use of E85 and Other Renewable Fuels

While there are more than 180,000 gas stations all over America, there are only about 1200 that offer E85 – a blend of 85 percent clean-burning, domestically grown ethanol and 15 percent petroleum gasoline. Gas stations will now be eligible for tax credits for installing E85 ethanol refueling pumps, thanks to a law advocated by Barack Obama and Senator Jim Talent (R-MO). The tax credit covers 30 percent of the costs of switching one or more traditional petroleum pumps to E85. Obama's legislation will help create the infrastructure to support more flexible-fuel vehicles (cars that run on both E85 and regular gasoline). Senator Obama also sponsored an amendment that became law providing \$40 million for commercialization of a combined flexible fuel vehicle/hybrid car within five years.

Senator Obama introduced legislation with Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) to require 2 billion gallons of alternative diesels, such as biodiesel, to be produced domestically by 2015. Obama also sponsored legislation requiring oil companies, that made at least \$1 billion in profits in the first quarter of 2006 to invest at least 1 percent of their total reported first quarter 2006 profits into installing E85 pumps.

Senator Obama worked with Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) to introduce the American Fuels Act that would increase the domestic production, distribution, and use of biofuels, including expanded manufacture of flexible fuel vehicles, tax credits for biofuels, and a nationwide distribution infrastructure.

Senator Obama and Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), launched a Government Accountability Office investigation of large oil companies to see if they are fighting the installation of alternative fuel pumps. That investigation will be completed in April 2007.

Global Climate Change

We need to take steps to stop catastrophic, manmade climate change. If we do not act, the consequences will be devastating for future generations, especially for the poorest global populations. Barack Obama believes the U.S. must act decisively and creatively to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Obama is an original cosponsor of legislation to establish limits on greenhouse gas emissions. To remain below these limits, the bill encourages the market to determine how best to reduce greenhouse gases, rewarding cost-effective approaches through a system of tradeable allowances. Revenues generated from this program will be directed to helping industries and individuals most affected by the limits, and also to fund research and development of new, more efficient, energy technologies.

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Anonymous (2008-06-24 19:38:00)

I would like to see Obama push for more ideas for replacing gas for cars. Corn can be used, but it is not as efficient as other plants.

Barack Obama: Credibility vs. "Substance" (2007-07-07 09:16)

Suggestions that Barack Obama is "all sizzle, no steak" continue to circulate through the media.

The idea is based mainly on the premise that Obama has not laid out highly-detailed plans on how to tackle various issues. Overlapping with this is the claim that Barack does not have adequate experience for the job of president.

Now, it's not overly difficult for someone with both a senatorial and campaign staff to whip out the most complex schemes on any issue. But will they be able to deliver on those plans?

Dennis Kucinich has what is probably the best universal healthcare plan of all the candidates. Its based on HR 676, a House bill he co-sponsored with John Conyers. It's basically a universal extension of the current Medicare system.

Kucinich's plan is a single-payer scheme, something that Obama has said that he ultimately supports himself. So why doesn't Obama have a similar plan? The problem with HR 676 is that it only has 78 supporters in Congress, far from the number needed just to get through the House.

HR 676 is one of a number of plans on Kucinich's website that can be considered more as ideological stands than promises that can be practically delivered once in office. Unless a Congress that happens to agree in majority with Kucinich on these issues is elected at the same time, the candidate's plans have to be considered no more than dreams. And the possibility of such a sea change happening is generally considered very unlikely.

So, "substance" has to be considered with reference to credibility.

A candidate is credible both in the practicality of his/her promises, as well as the credibility of the candidate on a specific issue based on previous history.

Many people believe Kucinich is sincere about his promises but simply not practical. There is another type of credibility gap based on the candidate that is not so sincere about their promises.

We all know about this type of candidate. One who makes promises on the campaign trail, but does little to deliver on the promises while in office. Often these candidates will change course in midstream during a campaign based on changes in poll numbers or other indications of what issues are popular among voters.

One of the best ways to judge the latter type of credibility is to look at the candidate track record and previous positions. Have the candidates held consistent views during their political career?

Barack Obama is credible in the first instance because he offers plans that are workable in the present environment. He also makes it clear that he will need the support of the people throughout the entire course to be successful. His credibility on the issues also comes from his past history in the political arena. For example, take his stand against the Iraq War.

Don't just consider his stance during his campaign for U.S. Senate in 2004, when the Democratic presidential candidates thought it "safe" to be hawkish on Iraq. Even back in 2002, when many considered an anti-war stance as political suicide, Barack protested publicly against the misadventure.

So the question here is more about credibility than substance. A candidate can offer many promises filled with complex detail, but can they credibly be expected to come through on these plans once elected? And how believable are they in offering these schemes in the first place.

We need to be skeptical if they don't have the record showing a consistent stand on the issue, or if they have a history of "flip-flopping" a lot in their agenda.

What one will find after studying the career of Barack Obama is that he is a very credible politician.

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Barack Obama off to Alabama for kickoff (2007-07-07 17:28)

Barack Obama will attend a rally and grassroots fundraiser in downtown Birmingham on Monday to kickoff his campaign in Alabama.

U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., is helping to organize the event aimed at college students and young people who will pay \$25 to attend. Davis' spokesman, Corey Ealons said between 1,500 and 2,000 people are expected to attend.

Obama will also attend a cocktail reception organized by HealthSouth CEO Jay Grinney with tickets at \$2,300 a person, and a \$1,000 a person luncheon at the Heritage Club in Huntsville.

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Obama shines in Newsweek article (2007-07-08 08:34)



Newsweek has an excellent article on Barack Obama although it deals with the tired theme of whether or not Barack is "black enough."

The interview though does give insight into Obama's views on race in America and some of his struggles dealing with the identity issue during his political career.

It really does give some great examples of how Obama often acts as a bridge between polarized factions. Also outlines how Barack converted Cornel West into a believer after the latter had blasted him at an African American conference. Click on the image to the left to access the article.

New Hampshire office opened

Barack Obama's New Hampshire campaign will open an office in Rochester Monday with an open house.

The Rochester office will be Obama's sixth campaign office in New Hampshire.

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Barack knows money's not everything (2007-07-08 18:28)

Barack Obama is winning the money primary by a wide margin.

He beat Hillary Clinton in the second quarter by more than the total raised by any other Democratic candidate for the primary.

However, Obama probably knows better than most that money isn't everything when it comes to winning an election.

When Barack ran for U.S. Senate in 2004, two other candidates – Blair Hull and Dan Hynes – raised more cash for the primary. Hull, in fact, raised six times more money than did Obama.

And Obama had no clench on establishment backing either. Hynes was a state controller who hailed from an established Democratic family from Chicago. Obama faced quite a challenge even though he eventually raised more than anyone thought he could.

Hull suffered in the last three weeks of the campaign when news broke out about violent incidents in a former marriage. That potentially could have opened the door more for Hynes who supposedly had the backing of the Chicago machine and who had raised slightly more money than Obama.

In the end, Obama made easy work of the opposition: Obama, 52.7 %, Dan Hynes, 23.7 %, Blair Hull, 10.8 %, with the rest going to other candidates.

Barack garnered broad support throughout the state including the South, where he was thought weak, and in Chicago,

where he easily defeated Hynes.

Although outraised, Obama managed to save more money for late tv ads than Hynes. Barack had been behind in the polls up until a few weeks before the election.

Barack's support base was firmer than his opponents and his team outworked the competition at the grassroots level. It may be that his experience in that race is one reason that Barack has been rather low-key after such a stunning fundraising effort. All along he had thought that he could win while he was behind in cash. Now as the frontrunner in the money primary, he knows he still has to win the often unseen war at ground level.

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Barack Obama, Yogurt and Transcendental Meditation (2007-07-09 12:24)

Barack Obama's New Hampshire campaign got a boost today when Gary and Meg Hirshberg of Stonyfield Farm Yogurt endorsed Obama today.

The organic yogurt farm in Londonberry is a popular destination and a must-stop for presidential candidates. The Hirschberg's issued this statement:

"America is badly divided and in desperate need of new solutions, new ideas, and a new way of conducting politics," Gary Hirshberg said. "Barack Obama is the candidate who can best help Americans focus on our common strengths and dreams, rather than our differences. We must move forward into the 21st Century and not back to old divisions and Barack will catalyze the change we need—in our disastrous policies, but also in the way the world sees us, and how we see ourselves. Meg and I are thrilled to get to work for Barack here in NH and across the US."

Maybe somewhat related to organic yogurt was Obama's recent encounter with transcendental meditators of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in Fairfield, Iowa.

Fairfield is the center of the Maharishi's followers in the United States and it happened that Obama gave a speech in the town center aligning himself perfectly with the earth's rotation according to the Maharishi's precepts.

"I saw him and I thought, 'Oh my god, this is somebody who could lead us into a new era,'" said Nancy Watkins, a student adviser at Maharishi University of Management.

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alyceclover (2007-07-10 22:29:00)

We, the people, are surely putting a lot of responsibility on Senator Obama's shoulders. I think he is up to the challenge. If you go to Peace Walker's site, he has a story about being the weight of a snowflake. Obama is gathering together the snowflakes,

or so it appears to me.

Your video expresses why we like the man. I get chills watching the videos on his You Tube channel. Thanks again for your work in support of the Senator and Mrs. Obama.

Michelle Obama speaks on the "Empathy Deficit" (2007-07-09 22:59)

A cum laude graduate of Princeton University with a Harvard law degree, Michelle Obama may be one of the smartest people speaking on the campaign trail.

In an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) today, Michelle states that her husband's race is a "test for America."

"You know, politics is a nasty business, and you don't hold out hope that fairness will win, that truth and justice carries the day. You think that it's a business. And there was that part of me that said 'Do we want to put ourselves out for a system that I am not sure about?'"

"What Barack and I talked about when we decided to do this was that we were going to do this authentically and that this was as much a test for us about the country and the [political] process as it was the other way around," Michelle says. "I am curious ... if you offer somebody up that is real and true, will people grasp that? I want to believe that they will, because that's what they've got in front of them."

Michelle also speaks of the "empathy deficit" that's been lacking at the highest levels of American politics and she feels her husband can bring this new perspective to the president's office :

"What he's said time and time again is that this country is suffering from an empathy deficit, and if you don't have it in you to walk in another person's shoes, it's going to be difficult for us to move through these problems, that what we need, as a country, is to start caring for one another in a very deep and fundamental way."

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Barack returns to Iowa with more cash (2007-07-10 11:41)

Sen. Barack Obama is at a town hall meeting focused on the economy in Des Moines, Iowa today, after raising more than \$100,000 in Alabama.

A large number of fundraisers are scheduled to coincide with Barack's birthday celebration on Aug. 4.

On July 12, Obama will participate in the presidential candidates forum of the NAACP 98th Annual Convention in Detroit at the COBO Conference Center

<http://www.naacp.org/events/convention/index.htm>

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Barack Obama to appear at La Raza conference (2007-07-10 21:19)

Sen. Barack Obama will appear at the National Council of La Raza conference in Miami next week along with Hillary Clinton and Al Sharpton.

Univision will broadcast the event which will also be used to launch a drive to register new Latino voters nationwide.

Four supporters dine with Barack

Four donors who won a contest last quarter dined with the candidate in Washington. The guests were treated to an all-expense paid trip to the capital, a site-seeing tour of the city and dinner with Barack.

One of the original guests, Florida firefighter Jennifer Lasko, decided not to attend after it was discovered she had underwent a sex change operation.

Christina Cheatham, a senior at Georgia College and State University, was selected to take her place.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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alyceclover (2007-07-10 22:03:00)

Decided or was persuaded not to attend?

Barack Obama dominates Nielsen/NetRatings (2007-07-11 11:16)

Nielsen/NetRatings most recent release shows that Barack Obama's campaign website had the most unique visitors of all the candidates.

Obama also led all candidates in web "buzz," the number of times one's name is mentioned in blogs and forums leading Hillary, the second-place Democratic candidate, by a wide margin.

Democrats had twice the buzz as Republicans according to Nielsen.

2008 Presidential Campaign Political Buzz					
Blog Post Analysis June 15, 2006-June 15, 2007		Democratic Party		Republican Party	
		Candidate	Buzz Share	Candidate	Buzz Share
		Barack Obama	45.5	John McCain	37.9
Political Party	Buzz Share	Hillary Clinton	32.0	Rudolph Giuliani	25.1
Democratic	64.3	John Edwards	17.5	Mitt Romney	22.7
Republican	35.7	Bill Richardson	4.9	Ron Paul	14.2

* Source: Nielsen BuzzMetrics
Data reflects % of messages within discussion of the above political candidates.

According to Nielsen, Obama had no online advertising, which is strange because I could have sworn I've seen ads for barackobama.com while surfing. Maybe these were paid for by third parties?

2008 Presidential Campaign Websites for April 2007					
Website	Unique Visitors (000)	Page Views (000)	Active Reach %	Sessions Per Visitor	Time Per Visitor (hh:mm:ss)
Barack Obama for President Website	647	3,797	0.45	1.41	0:06:21
Hillary Clinton for President Website	498	1,616	0.34	1.17	0:04:16
John Edwards for President Website	385	1,744	0.27	1.32	0:04:59
John McCain Presidential Website	212	766	0.15	1.20	0:04:09
Tom Tancredo Presidential Website	142	454	0.10	1.10	0:03:58
Mitt Romney Presidential Website	111	447	0.08	1.12	0:03:08
Ron Paul Presidential Website	103	602	0.07	1.09	0:05:05
Bill Richardson for President Website	72	138	0.05	1.06	0:02:37
Dennis Kucinich for President Website	70	329	0.05	1.56	0:04:57
Rudy Giuliani Exploratory Website	65	562	0.04	1.17	0:02:43
Mike Gravel for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Joe Biden for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Duncan Hunter for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chris Dodd for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tommy Thompson Presidential Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John Cox for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tom Vilsack for President Website	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**These Websites do not meet minimum sample size standards. Projected and average measures for these sites may exhibit large changes month-to-month as a result.*

N/A indicates that these Websites have insufficient sample sizes for reliable projection of audience size.

Note Barack's clear lead above despite the money spent on online advertising by three candidates – John McCain, Hilary Clinton and Mitt Romney.

2008 Presidential Campaign Online Political Advertising				
Candidate	Image-Based Advertising		Sponsored Link Advertising	
	April 2007 Impressions (000)	May 2007 Impressions (000)	April 2007 Impressions (000)	May 2007 Impressions (000)
John McCain	11,616	8,654	14,352	6,262
Friends of Hillary	395	-	966	778
Romney for President, Inc.	-	3,437	877	1,438

**Source: Nielsen//NetRatings AdRelevance US*



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alyceclover (2007-07-11 13:32:00)

Technology is wonderful. Years ago I did not much trust Nielsen ratings because my understanding was that they based their findings on a sampling of households, mostly in the midwest.

Now robots roam the web gathering info and stats, giving a truer picture of reality.

Thanks for sharing.

"Widebody" Charles Barkley endorses Barack Obama (2007-07-11 17:51)

Basketball legend Charles Barkley has endorsed Barack Obama for president.

The Hall of Famer pledged to support Obama all the way through and did an interview for the campaign team in Birmingham, Alabama.

We've heard a lot about Hollywood stars endorsing candidates, but a lineup of sports star supporters would be novel and potentially very effective.

Check out the detailed article from the Chicago Tribune about the Obama campaign's use of book clubs in Iowa and New Hampshire to help people learn more about Barack, his background and his views.

Charles Barkley talks about Barack Obama

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama Resume (2007-07-12 07:12)

To help address the continuing questions over Barack Obama's experience, I have compiled a concise, easy-to-read, one-page resume for the senator. I still have to make up a list of Barack's endorsements to use as references.

Barack Obama

Born: 4 August 1961, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

OBJECTIVE Seeking office of President of the United States .

EDUCATION

Occidental College

Columbia University – Bachelor of Arts (1983), Political Science with International Relations specialization.

Harvard University – Juris Doctor (1991), Magna cum Laude , first African American President of Harvard Law Review
.

EXPERIENCE 2004 to Present

United States Senate – U.S. Senator from Illinois. Veteran Affairs Committee member. Has championed legislation on redeployment of troops out of Iraq, increased government accountability, veteran's benefits and care, nuclear non-proliferation, energy independence and global warming action.

1996 to 2004

Illinois State Senate – State Senator . Elected two terms. Among his accomplishments: state earned income tax credit, childhood education expansion, ethics and healthcare reform, gun control, and videotaping of capital case interrogations and confessions.

1993 to 2004

University of Chicago – Lecturer of Constitutional Law at University of Chicago Law School.

1993 to 1996

Miner, Barnhill & Galland – Civil Rights Attorney with Chicago law firm. Represented community organizations, discrimination claims and voting rights cases.

1985 to 1988

Developing Communities Project

– Community Organizer for church-based group in Chicago's South Side. Organized job training programs.

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1995 and 2006 – Author of two best-selling books, Dreams from My Father and The Audacity of Hope. The audio version of Dreams from My Father won the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album. Time columnist Joe Klein said the book "may be the best-written memoir ever produced by an American politician."

1992 – Chair of voter registration drive in Illinois that brought in 150,000 new voters and helped candidate Bill Clinton carry the state.

2004 – Keynote speaker at Democratic National Convention.

REFERENCES Provided in separate list.

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Barack Obama: "Rock Star" of NAACP Forum (2007-07-12 11:13)

The crowd at the NAACP Presidential Forum in Detroit greeted Sen. Barack Obama with thunderous applause both before and after his three minute speech covering topics from gun control to healthcare.

Both the Detroit Free-Press and MSNBC reported that Obama received extended standing ovations that were more enthusiastic than those for the other candidates.

The Detroit Free-Press called Obama the "rock star" of the event. Other media outlets even conceded that Obama "won" this forum contending, of course, that Clinton had better performances in previous match-ups.

Given the great importance of the black vote in the Democratic primary, none of the candidates appeared willing to concede a national event of America's most important civil rights organization.

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Barack calls for letters on Iraq (2007-07-12 19:07)

Barack Obama broadcasted this appeal not long ago:

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Dear Friend,

Al Qaeda has recovered to its pre-September 11th strength, according to an intelligence community estimate revealed today.

Think about that.

Almost six years after 9/11, Osama bin Laden is still alive. His organization is still training terrorists. And he and his associates still have a safe haven in the mountains on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Meanwhile, George Bush released his administration's report on the "progress" in Iraq. It's another example of how deep in denial he is about what's really happening. The past three months have been some of the deadliest since the war began, and things are getting worse – not better.

The war in Iraq should never have been authorized, never have been waged, and it must end now.

Al Qaeda's resurgence proves that the Iraq war has been a deadly distraction from the real threats we face – which is why I opposed the war from the beginning.

George Bush just finished a press conference where he tried to tell people that progress is being made in Iraq and against al Qaeda. The press will report his spin and obfuscation – but you can have an impact on their coverage.

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper right now – if you act quickly, your letter could be printed alongside tomorrow's coverage.

Our online letters-to-editors tool makes it simple:

<http://www.BarackObama.com/BushInDenial>

Over 250,000 of us have invested in this campaign because we're willing to do everything we can to change this country.

Now is the time to act.

Millions of Americans are hungry for a president who will end the war in Iraq and confront the threats we face with honesty and sound judgment.

They're waiting to hear from you. Thank you,

X

Barack Obama

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Barack goes hybrid, collects more cash (2007-07-13 09:34)

Barack Obama traded in his Chrysler 300C with Hemi for a more efficient Ford Escape hybrid.

Obama also owns a flexible fuel GMC Envoy which he drives while in his home state of Illinois.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Barack pulled in more than \$125,000 at a fundraiser in the strongly Republican area.

In New Hampshire, four grassroots activists announced their support for Obama. Here is the list:

Chip Moynihan, Hampton – New Hampshire Democratic Party State Committee Member; Rockingham County Democratic Executive Committee member; health insurance consultant in Hampton

Joanne Dowdell, Portsmouth – Vice President for Corporate Responsibility for Citizens Advisors Inc., a socially responsible mutual fund firm in Portsmouth

Jerry Slagle, Alton – Democratic activist

John Barriere, Durham – Membership Coordinator of the College Democrats of New Hampshire (UNH student)

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Barack meets Vegas supporters, Iowa veterans on tour (2007-07-13 20:16)

Sen. Barack Obama visits Las Vegas for a fourth time Friday at a house party hosted by Yvette and Damone Williams. The invitation-only meeting with potential caucus participants will allow Obama to "have a real conversation and dialogue with them, to engage with the issues in sort of a casual environment," campaign spokeswoman Liz Oxhorn

said. A few hundred guests are expected.

Iowa Veterans for Obama will stop in Charles City Tuesday as part of their "Obama for Commander in Chief" tour. Major Gen. Scott Gration is joining the four-day tour that seeks to inform Iowans of Barack's plan to end the Iraq War.

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Barack Obama names high profile Nevada team (2007-07-14 08:03)

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama announced his Nevada campaign prior to his fourth visit to Las Vegas.

The committee consists of state Sen. Steven Horsford, D-Las Vegas; Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, D-Reno, businesswoman Rose McKinney-James; Democratic stalwart Billy Vassiliadis; and education activist Elaine Wynn, wife of casino magnate Steve Wynn.

"I am proud to have the support of this group of respected leaders and looking forward to working with them as we build a strong team of Nevadans committed to changing our politics so that we can meet the challenges facing our country," Obama said in a released statement.

Horsford runs Nevada Partners, the firm that runs the training academy for the Culinary Workers Union. This is an important connection because the culinary workers may be one of the most coveted local unions in the early states. Vassiliadis, CEO of R & R Partners, is a premier Nevada political consultant.

Elaine Wynn is sometimes called the "First Lady of Las Vegas." Her husband is credited with leading Las Vegas' revival in the 1990s and is associated with hotels like the Golden Nugget, Mirage and Bellagio.

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Obama: Iraq War not helping with al-Qaeda (2007-07-14 13:27)

Campaigning in Oelwein, Iowa, presidential candidate Barack Obama said that the Iraq War has not helped the war on terrorism.

When you look at the facts, it's obvious that Obama is correct. Al-Qaeda does not appear to have lost strength. If you look internationally at the number and intensity of al-Qaeda attacks before and after 9/11, you quickly see that the group's most spectacular success has come afterward.

Remember that al-Qaeda was originally formed to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan as a U.S. ally. It only became an enemy of the United States after U.S. military intervention in the Muslim world by George Bush during the Gulf War. Al-Qaeda interpreted this as a manifestation of the doctrine of the "clash of civilizations" that was a feature of Bush Sr.'s thinking.

Before that period, America and other Western countries had maintained a discrete and stable military presence in Arab countries for decades including bases in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Qaeda had practically no presence in Iraq before the Gulf War. Afterward they were able to establish a foothold only in the U.S.-occupied Kurdish regions of the north. It was only after the U.S. occupation of Iraq that al-Qaeda has become so powerful that even old Baathists in the Sunni region are forced to cooperate with the group..

Previously, al-Qaeda and the Baath Party of both Iraq and Syria were mortal enemies.

The Bush logic in claiming that the Iraq War had some link with fighting terrorism is based entirely on one idea. Bush has claimed repeatedly that fighting in Iraq attracts al-Qaeda fighters to that country and keeps them from going elsewhere and particularly to the U.S.

No obviously Iraqis are probably not pleased to learn about that strategy of their country used as some sort of a bait for Iraqi fighters, but Bush has made many comments that basically imply this very fact.

We are led by the administration to the "proof" of this strategy by lack of any post 9-11 attacks on the United States. Even if we forget that al-Qaeda has struck in many other countries post-9-11 including close U.S. ally Britain, we simply haven't seen any evidence that any planned attacks on the U.S. were foiled by the Iraq invasion or even by the war in Afghanistan.

A number of rather small plots to attack the U.S. both before and after 9-11 have been stopped, but only one major attack even approaching the scale of the World Trade Center bombings.

That was the plan just last year to destroy multiple passenger airlines bound to the U.S. from the United Kingdom using liquid explosives.

Now, did the war in Iraq have anything to do with breaking up that plot? Obviously not.

Those attacks were foiled by homeland security investigations. The plotters were primarily from Pakistan.

So, the fact is that simply don't know that al-Qaeda ever had a long list of planned attacks on the U.S. after 9-11, or if they did what the timetable existed for those attacks. They may have been spread many years apart for all we know. What we do know is that the Iraq War has opened a door for al-Qaeda in Iraq and has established that country as something of a training ground. The recent attacks in England and Scotland, for example, had a direct Iraq connection.

Will we now see techniques like car bombs and IUDs perfected in Iraq used elsewhere in the world?

Definitely we have to look at the Iraq War as a step back in the "war on terrorism." We've simply expanded the playing field, and ignited more passion than existed beforehand.

Just look at the evidence, Hezbollah defeated the mighty Israeli armed forces in Lebanon, Hamas has taken over half of the Palestinian territories and al-Qaeda is striking with greater frequency than ever before.

And I won't even get into other problems with Iran playing its hand now in the region except to say that extremist groups like Hezbollah, al-Qaeda and Hamas are now stronger than ever.

Just look at the evidence, Hezbollah defeated the mighty Israeli armed forces in Lebanon, Hamas has taken over half of the Palestinian territories and al-Qaeda is striking with greater frequency than ever before.

Obama feels we must leave Iraq to deal with its own problems and stop giving the people reasons to listen to al-Qaeda.

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Barack Obama: The more, the merrier (2007-07-15 08:02)

Barack Obama said yesterday that he favors debates with all candidates participating after stories that Hillary Clinton and John Edwards discussed paring the field.

Clinton and Edwards were unknowingly taped during the NAACP when Hillary's microphone picked up a "private" conversation between the two during the event. They talked about barring the bottom tier candidates from future debates.

Obama's name was not mentioned during the taped parts of the discussion.

"My attitude is the more the merrier," Obama said in an interview. "I don't know how you'd draw the line to say some can participate and some can't, particularly when you know historically, for example, Bill Clinton was at 2 percent in the polls in some of these early contests."

Camp Obama expanding

The regular Camp Obama training sessions have until now been conducted at the headquarters office in Chicago. Starting this month Camp Obama goes national with July training in Burbank and August sessions in St. Louis and New York City.

Camp Obama teaches supporters the basics of organizing and executing grassroots campaign activities in three-day courses.

MoveOn.org showing bias for Edwards over Obama (2007-07-15 11:45)

When MoveOn.org conducted its first electronic town hall meeting on the Iraq War plenty of notices were sent out for the live event.

Polls conducted after the meeting showed that MoveOn.org members favored Barack Obama among all the candidates as the best candidate to deal with this issue.

MoveOn.org did make much fanfare over the poll results. In fact, in the archived page for the town hall meeting the poll is not even mentioned nor can you find the poll results. Edwards audio tape and picture are at the top of that page "above the fold" as they say, while Barack Obama is all the way at the bottom of the page.

For the latest MoveOn.org town hall meeting, little notice was given. In fact, I was first reminded of the event on the barackobama.com blog. The email told me to examine the positions of the candidates and then vote.

Edwards won this poll and now MoveOn.org has decided to run paid newspaper ads trumpeting the poll results in the early caucus and primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire. The obvious aim here is to influence the primary election results.

Very disappointing behavior from an organization that advertises itself as "progressive." No wonder so many people that I know who supported that group when it first started have grown disenchanted and believe MoveOn.org is practicing "politics as usual."

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Barack Obama leading in cash for primary (2007-07-16 09:09)

Candidate Barack Obama has about a million more than Hillary Clinton in primary cash according to financial reports filed by the campaigns.

At the end of the second quarter, Obama had about \$34 million to Hillary's \$33 million.

Barack would have even a greater lead but he has spent more money this year for the primary, about \$22 million compared to Hillary's \$17.5 million.

Barack's single largest expense was payroll at \$3,209,131.15. He also spent \$1,940,086.40 for travel and lodging, and \$1,318,502.86 for telemarketing.

Size of Donations for Barack Obama

\$200 and Under \$16,554,783

\$200.01 - \$499 \$2,802,170

\$500 - \$999 \$3,758,580

\$1000 - \$1999 \$8,437,333

\$2000 and Over \$27,063,693

[EMBED]

Size of Donations for Hillary Clinton

\$200 and Under \$4,627,408

\$200.01 - \$499 \$1,426,933

\$500 - \$999 \$2,015,033

\$1000 - \$1999 \$7,596,507

\$2000 and Over \$36,880,268

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Obama walks with striking Chicago workers (2007-07-16 14:53)

Barack Obama walked the picket lines outside of Chicago's Congress Plaza Hotel in support of striking workers. Congress workers are represented by Unite Here Local 1, a union closely linked with the powerful Culinary Workers Union in Las Vegas. Obama told the press in Las Vegas last week that he would be supporting the Chicago workers. Obama refused to comment on the new "Obama Girl" video circulating on YouTube. "That's not why we are here," he said.

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Heckroth, Fenty endorse Obama (2007-07-16 17:05)

Iowa State Sen. Bill Heckroth endorsed Barack Obama today bringing the presidential candidate's state legislator endorsements to five.

Last week, Sen. Tom Rielly endorsed Obama.

Heckroth noted Obama's "refusal to accept money from" political action committees or federal lobbyists "prove to me he'll bring much needed change to Washington D.C."

Washington Mayor Adrian M. Fenty also announced today that he will endorse Obama tomorrow.

Fenty held off in supporting a candidate but it became apparent he would endorse Obama after his campaign manager Jim Hudson arranged a recent fundraiser for Obama that netted \$600,000. Hudson also announced three DC city council endorsements for Obama: Yvette M. Alexander, Muriel Bowser and Tommy Wells.

"He's our Bobby Kennedy," Wells told reporters.

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Anonymous (2010-03-23 18:13:02)

i genuinely love all your writing kind, very interesting,

don't give up and also keep writing due to the fact that it simply just worth to look through it,

impatient to browse through much of your article content, have a great day ;)

Obama staff harassing Cookie Mom? (2007-07-17 08:51)

Christine Frydenborg is a member of PrioritiesNH, an organization that seeks to shift priorities in the federal budget from military spending to education, health care, energy independence, job training and deficit reduction. She is known as "Cookie Mom" as she brings cookies to campaign events with the message "take a bite out of the budget." A letter to the Nashua Telegraph claims that certain members of Obama's New Hampshire staff may be putting the lid on Cookie Mom:

" Sen. Obama himself has at all times been friendly, welcoming and gracious, and has even held up our cookies when talking about the federal budget. Certain members of his New Hampshire staff have been hostile, and Cookie Mom has been barred from handing out cookies inside his events (the only campaign of either party to do so)."

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Elected officials who have recently endorsed Barack Obama, from left to right Iowa State Sen. Tom Rielly, Iowa State Sen. Bill Heckroth and DC Mayor Adrian Fenty.

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Steve (2007-07-18 07:19:00)

I spoke last night with Sen. Obama's State Director, Matt Rodriguez, who invited Cookie Mom to hand out cookies and Priorities pens inside their New Hampshire events and said the staffer with whom Cookie Mom had problems is no longer with the campaign. We're pleased; both Sen. Obama and the people attending his events have been very receptive to our message of sensible federal budget priorities.

Steve Varnum

PrioritiesNH Director

Anonymous (2011-04-01 17:06:29)

She's a moron and doesn't even bake cookies OR have children hence, the Cookie Mom is just a farce.

Oprah to throw Obama bash (2007-07-17 09:32)

Oprah Winfrey, by many accounts America's most powerful woman, will host what promises to be a massive Sept. 8 fundraiser for Barack Obama's presidential campaign at her Santa Barbara home.

The media mogul broadcasted an email invitation to the party described as "the most exciting Barack Obama event of the year anywhere ..."

As Oprah's own endorsement is considered the equivalent of the midas touch in the media world for entertainers, authors, producers and the like, the draw to attend this event will be huge. Politicos might also see this as a chance to pull Oprah along with her influence and big bucks more deeply into the political sphere.

Tickets start at \$2,300, but those wanting star treatment will have to pay more. Donors who can raise \$25,000 may attend the VIP reception, and \$50,000 in donations earn a spot at the VIP dinner.

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Hollywood contributions in 2Q (2007-07-17 13:50)

Here's a list showing how some Hollywood celebrities donated during the second quarter.

BARACK OBAMA (D)

Adam Arkin, actor \$250
Paul Dooley, actor \$2,300
Jodie Foster, actress \$1,000
Jamie Foxx, actor \$2,300
Martha Hackett, "Star Trek" actress \$2,300
Bruce Hornsby, singer \$2,300
Anna Horsford, "Amen" actress \$500
Cedric "The Entertainer" Kyles, actor \$2,500
Eriq La Salle, actor \$500
Paul Newman, actor \$4,600
Tom Skerritt, actor \$1,000
Jean Smart, actress \$4,600
Jada Smith, actress \$4,600
Will Smith, actor \$4,600
David Sutcliffe, "Gilmore Girls" Actor \$1,250
Isaiah Washington, former "Grey's Anatomy" Actor \$2,300
Joanne Woodward, Actress \$4,600
Jennifer Anniston , Actress \$2,300
Chris Rock , Actor \$4,600
Brooke Shields , Actress \$2,300
Eddie Murphy , Actor \$2,300
will.i.am , musician \$2,300
Jamie Lee Curtis , Actress \$4,600
George Clooney , Actor \$2,300

HILLARY CLINTON (D)

Ruby Dee, actress: \$250
Danny DeVito, actor: \$2,300
Fran Drescher, TV's "The Nanny": \$2,300
Joely Fisher, actress \$4,600
Tom Hanks, actor: \$2,300
Ed Helms, actor, "Andy Bernard" in NBC's "The Office": \$250
Sharon Lawrence, "NYPD Blue" co-star: \$1,000
Tobey Maguire, actor \$4,600
Marla Maples, actress: \$1,000
Paul Newman, actor: \$4,600
Rhea Perlman, actress \$2,300
Pauly Shore, actor \$1,000
Ben Stiller, actor \$6,900 (\$4,600 is the legal limit)
George Takei, actor \$1,000
Lily Tomlin, actress \$2,000
Rita Wilson, actress \$2,300
Joanne Woodward, actress \$4,600

CHRIS DODD (D)

John Lithgow, actor: \$1000

Christy Romano, actress, singer, voice of "Kim Possible": \$300

JOHN EDWARDS (D)

Oliver Stone, director: \$500

Mary Steenburgen, actress: \$2300

Ben Stiller, actor: \$4600

Peter Coyote, actor: \$1054

Sharon Lawrence, actress: \$1000

MIKE GRAVEL (D)

Mark Ruffalo, actor: \$700

DENNIS KUCINICH (D)

Shelley Morrison, actress ("Rosario" on "Will and Grace"): \$1600

Alexandra Paul, actress, "Baywatch" co-star: \$1300

Deirdre Hall, "Days of Our Lives" actress: \$1000

Hector Elizondo, actor: \$300

BILL RICHARDSON (D)

Michael Douglas, actor: \$3100

Val Kilmer, actor: \$2300

Paul Newman, actor: \$2300

Edward James Olmos, actor: \$2300

Wendie Malick, "Just Shoot Me" actress: \$500

Steven Spielberg, director: \$2300

Kate Capshaw, actress, wife of Steven Spielberg: \$2300

Jodie Foster, actress: \$1000

Christie Brinkley, self-described as "Model/Mom/Environmental activist": \$500

Bette Midler, actress/singer: \$4600

Sherry Lansing, former film executive: \$2300

William Friedkin, director: \$2300

James L. Brooks, producer/writer: \$1000

RUDY GIULIANI (R)

Tony Sirico, actor, "Paulie Walnuts" on "The Sopranos": \$1000

Melissa Gilbert, actress: \$4600

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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alyceclover (2007-07-20 10:53:00)

Interesting. I thought the max contribution from an individual contributor was \$2,300. Sad that some of my favs are putting their money or backing on candidates I don't endorse.

Obama opens California office, collects funds (2007-07-17 17:50)

Obama for America announced the opening of a new office in downtown San Bernardino today. The public opening is scheduled for 6 pm tonight.


"When you stand back and look at San Bernardino, it has grown in the last 10 years," said Emmett Cash III, Obama's state campaign chairman. "It's no longer a stepchild of Los Angeles. It is on its own." The office plans to conduct campaign training in October.

I wonder why they chose an Inland Empire location rather than Los Angeles?

http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_6395887

Obama collects cash in Cincinnati

Barack made a quick stop in Cincinnati tonight after attending a news conference with DC mayor Adrian Fenty.

Hundreds of people cheered his speech at a downtown hotel but there was no immediate report on how much money was raised. 



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Renata_of_Spokane (2007-09-04 11:21:00)

Emmett Cash III is not affiliated with the Obama campaign. He is a fraud who has held so-called "fundraisers" for the candidate, and made off with all of the money.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/07/25/MNGUTR6FO61.DTL&type=printable>

Obama's office/staff spending reveals focus (2007-07-18 09:00)

You can get some idea of the priorities of the candidates by the number of offices and paid staff they've hired in different states.

For example, here are the offices that Obama has opened across the country:

Obama for America Offices Iowa - 29

New Hampshire - 6

Nevada - 3

South Carolina - 2

California - 2

New York - 1

Florida - 1

This figure may not include a new office the campaign just opened in San Bernardino, California.

You can see that the Obama campaign is really concentrating on doing well in the first caucus state of Iowa.

One area in which the Democratic frontrunners differ sharply is in their South Carolina efforts.

Obama spent \$150,000 on staff in South Carolina during the second quarter and has opened two offices in the state.

Hillary Clinton spent \$38,000 on 2Q staff salaries in South Carolina and John Edwards only \$11,000.

In comparison, Edwards spent \$67,000 on staff in Nevada. While Clinton had only seven staffers in South Carolina, she has 25 in Nevada. Obama spent \$105,000 on staff in Nevada.

For more info on staff spending, [click here](#).



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack details plan to tackle urban poverty (2007-07-18 12:18)

Sen. Barack Obama today unveiled details of his five-part plan to deal with urban poverty in a speech at the Town Hall Education Arts and Recreation Center (THEARC) in Washington, DC.

The program involves investments in education, jobs, business development and affordable housing. Obama uses the Harlem Children's Zone project as an example of effective strategy toward minimizing urban poverty.

Here's the full text of the speech:

It's been four decades since Bobby Kennedy crouched in a shack along the Mississippi Delta and looked into the wide, listless eyes of a hungry child. Again and again he tried to talk to this child, but each time his efforts were met with only a blank stare of desperation. And when Kennedy turned to the reporters traveling with him, with tears in his eyes he asked a single question about poverty in America:

"How can a country like this allow it?"

Forty years later, we're still asking that question. It echoes on the streets of Compton and Detroit, and throughout the mining towns of West Virginia. It lingers with every image we see of the 9th Ward and the rural Gulf Coast, where poverty thrived long before Katrina came ashore.

We stand not ten miles from the seat of power in the most affluent nation on Earth. Decisions are made on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue that shape lives and set the course of history. With the stroke of a pen, billions are spent on programs and policies; on tax breaks for those who didn't need them and a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged. Debates rage and accusations fly and at the end of each day, the petty sniping is what lights up the evening news.

And yet here, on the other side of the river, every other child in Anacostia lives below the poverty line. Too many do not graduate and too many more do not find work. Some join gangs, and others fall to their gunfire.

The streets here are close to our capital, but far from the people it represents. These Americans cannot hire lobbyists to roam the halls of Congress on their behalf, and they cannot write thousand-dollar campaign checks to make their voices heard. They suffer most from a politics that has been tipped in favor of those with the most money, and influence, and power.

How can a country like this allow it?

No matter how many times it's asked or what the circumstances are, the most American answer I can think of to that question is two words:

"We can't."

We can't allow this kind of suffering and hopelessness to exist in our country. We can't afford to lose a generation of tomorrow's doctors and scientists and teachers to poverty. We can make excuses for it or we can fight about it or we can ignore poverty altogether, but as long as it's here it will always be a betrayal of the ideals we hold as Americans. It's not who we are.

In this country – of all countries – no child's destiny should be determined before he takes his first step. No little girl's future should be confined to the neighborhood she was born into. Our government cannot guarantee success and happiness in life, but what we can do as a nation is to ensure that every American

who wants to work is prepared to work, able to find a job, and able to stay out of poverty. What we can do is make our neighborhoods whole again. What we can do is retire the phrase “working poor” in our time. That’s what we can do, because that’s who we are.

The challenge is greater than it has been in generations, but that’s all the more reason for this generation to act. One in every eight Americans now lives in poverty, a rate that has nearly doubled since 1980. That’s an income of about \$20,000 a year for a family of four. One in three Americans – one in every three – is now classified as low-income. That’s \$40,000 a year for a family of four.

Today’s economy has made it easier to fall into poverty. The fall is often more precipitous and more permanent than ever before. You used to be able to find a good job without a degree from college or even high school. Today that’s nearly impossible. You used to be able to count on your job to be there for your entire life. Today almost any job can be shipped overseas in an instant.

The jobs that remain are paying less and offering fewer benefits, as employers have succeeded in busting up unions and cutting back on health care and pensions to stay competitive with the companies abroad that are paying their workers next to nothing.

Every American is vulnerable to the insecurities and anxieties of this new economy. And that’s why the single most important focus of my economic agenda as President will be to pursue policies that create jobs and make work pay.

This means investing in education from early childhood through college, so our workers are ready to compete with any workers for the best jobs the world has to offer. It means investing more in research, science, and technology so that those new jobs and those new industries are created right here in America. And while we can’t stop every job from going overseas, we can stop giving tax breaks to the companies who send them there and start giving them to companies who create jobs at home.

We can also start making sure these jobs keep folks out of poverty. When I’m President, I will raise the minimum wage and make it a living wage by making sure that it rises every time the cost of living does. I’ll start letting our unions do what they do best again – organize our workers and lift up our middle-class. And I’ll finally make sure every American has affordable health care that stays with you no matter what happens by passing my plan to provide universal coverage and cut the cost of health care by up to \$2500 per family.

All of these policies will give more families a chance to grab hold of the ladder to middle-class security, and they’ll make the climb a little easier.

But poverty is not just a function of simple economics. It’s also a matter of where you live. There are vast swaths of rural America and block after block in our cities where poverty is not just a crisis that hits pocketbooks, but a disease that infects every corner of the community. I will be outlining my rural agenda in the coming weeks, but today I want to talk about what we can do as a nation to combat the poverty that persists in our cities.

This kind of poverty is not an issue I just discovered for the purposes of a campaign, it is the cause that led me to a life of public service almost twenty-five years ago.

I was just two years out of college when I first moved to the South Side of Chicago to become a community organizer. I was hired by a group of churches that were trying to deal with steel plant closures that had devastated the surrounding neighborhoods. Everywhere you looked, businesses were boarded up and schools were crumbling and teenagers were standing aimlessly on street corners, without jobs and without hope.

What’s most overwhelming about urban poverty is that it’s so difficult to escape – it’s isolating and it’s everywhere. If you are an African-American child unlucky enough to be born into one of these neighborhoods, you are most likely to start life hungry or malnourished. You are less likely to start with a father in your household, and if he is there, there’s a fifty-fifty chance that he never finished high school and the same chance he doesn’t have a job. Your school isn’t likely to have the right books or the best teachers. You’re more likely to encounter gang-activities than after-school activities. And if you can’t find a job because the most successful businessman in your neighborhood is a drug dealer, you’re more likely to join that gang yourself. Opportunity is scarce, role models are few, and there is little contact

with the normalcy of life outside those streets.

What you learn when you spend your time in these neighborhoods trying to solve these problems is that there are no easy solutions and no perfect arguments. And you come to understand that for the last four decades, both ends of the political spectrum have been talking past one another.

It's true that there were many effective programs that emerged from Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. But there were also some ineffective programs that were defended anyway, as well as an inability of some on the left to acknowledge that the problems of absent fathers or persistent crime were indeed problems that needed to be addressed.

The right has often seized on these failings as proof that the government can't and shouldn't do a thing about poverty – that it is a result of individual moral failings and cultural pathologies and so we should just sit back and let these cities fend for themselves. And so Ronald Reagan launched his assault on welfare queens, and George Bush spent the last six years slashing programs to combat poverty, and job training, and substance abuse, and child abuse.

Well we know that's not the answer. When you're in these neighborhoods, you can see what a difference it makes to have a government that cares. You can see what a free lunch program does for a hungry child. You can see what a little extra money from an earned income tax credit does for a family that's struggling. You can see what prenatal care does for the health of a mother and a newborn. So don't tell me there's no role for government in lifting up our cities.

But you can also see what a difference it makes when people start caring for themselves. It makes a difference when a father realizes that responsibility does not end at conception; when he understands that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child but the courage to raise one. It makes a difference when a parent turns off the TV once in awhile, puts away the video games, and starts reading to their child, and getting involved in his education. It makes a difference when we realize that a child who shoots another child has a hole in his heart that no government can fill. That makes a difference.

So there are no easy answers and perfect arguments. As Dr. King said, it is not either-or, it is both-and. Hope is not found in any single ideology – an insistence on doing the same thing with the same result year after year.

Hope is found in what works. In those South Side neighborhoods, hope was found in the after school programs we created, and the job training programs we put together, and the organizing skills we taught residents so that they could stand up to a government that wasn't standing up for them. Hope is found here at THEARC, where you've provided thousands of children with shelter from the streets and a home away from home. And if you travel a few hours north of here, you will find hope amid ninety-seven neighborhood blocks in the heart of Harlem.

This is the home of the Harlem Children's Zone – an all-encompassing, all-hands-on-deck anti-poverty effort that is literally saving a generation of children in a neighborhood where they were never supposed to have a chance.

The philosophy behind the project is simple – if poverty is a disease that infects an entire community in the form of unemployment and violence; failing schools and broken homes, then we can't just treat those symptoms in isolation. We have to heal that entire community. And we have to focus on what actually works.

If you're a child who's born in the Harlem Children's Zone, you start life differently than other inner-city children. Your parents probably went to what they call " Baby College", a place where they received counseling on how to care for newborns and what to expect in those first months. You start school right away, because there's early childhood education. When your parents are at work, you have a safe place to play and learn, because there's child care, and after school programs, even in the summer. There are innovative charter schools to attend. There's free medical services that offer care when you're sick and preventive services to stay healthy. There's affordable, good food available so you're not malnourished. There are job counselors and financial counselors. There's technology training and crime prevention.

You don't just sign up for this program, you're actively recruited for it, because the idea is that if everyone is involved, and no one slips through the cracks, then you really can change an entire community.

Geoffrey Canada, the program's inspirational, innovative founder, put it best – instead of helping some kids beat the odds, the Harlem Children's Zone is actually changing the odds altogether.

And it's working. Parents in Harlem are actually reading more to their children. Their kids are staying in school and passing statewide tests at higher rates than other children in New York City. They're going to college in a place where it was once unheard of. They've even placed third at a national chess championship.

So we know this works. And if we know it works, there's no reason this program should stop at the end of those blocks in Harlem. It's time to change the odds for neighborhoods all across America. And that's why when I'm President, the first part of my plan to combat urban poverty will be to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone in twenty cities across the country. We'll train staff, we'll have them draw up detailed plans with attainable goals, and the federal government will provide half of the funding for each city, with the rest coming from philanthropies and businesses.

Now, how much will this cost? I'll be honest – it can't be done on the cheap. It will cost a few billion dollars a year. We won't just spend the money because we can – every step these cities take will be evaluated, and if certain plans or programs aren't working, we will stop them and try something else.

But we will find the money to do this because we can't afford not to. Dr. King once remarked that if we can find the money to put a man on the moon, then we can find the money to put a man on his own two feet. There's no reason we should be spending tens of thousands of dollars a year to imprison one of these kids when they turn eighteen when we could be spending \$3,500 to turn their lives around with this program. And to really put it in perspective, think of it this way. The Harlem Children's Zone is saving a generation of children for \$46 million a year. That's about what the war in Iraq costs American taxpayers every four hours.

So let's invest this money. Let's change the odds in urban America by focusing on what works.

The second part of my plan will do this by providing families the support they need to raise their children. I'll pass the plan I outlined last year that will provide more financial support to fathers who make the responsible choice to help raise their children and crack down on the fathers who don't. And we'll help new mothers with their new responsibilities by expanding a pioneering program known as the Nurse-Family Partnership that offers home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income mothers and mothers-to-be.

This program has been proven to reduce childhood injuries, unintended pregnancies, and the use of welfare and food stamps. It's increased father involvement, women's employment, and children's school readiness. It's produced more than \$28,000 in net savings for every high-risk family enrolled in the program. It works, and I'll expand the program to 570,000 first-time mothers each year.

The third part of my plan for urban America is to help people find work and make that work pay.

I will invest \$1 billion over five years in innovative transitional jobs programs that have been highly successful at placing the unemployed into temporary jobs and then training them for permanent ones. People in these programs get the chance to work in a community service-type job, earn a paycheck every week, and learn the skills they need for gainful employment. And by leaving with references and a resume, often times they find that employment.

Still, even for those workers who do find a permanent job, many times there's no way for them to advance their careers once they're in those jobs. That's why we'll also work with community organizations and businesses to create career pathways that provide workers with the additional skills and training they need to earn more money. And we'll make sure that public transportation is both available and affordable for low-income workers, because no one should be denied work in this country because they can't get there.

To make work pay, I will also triple the Earned Income Tax Credit for full-time workers making the minimum wage. This is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in history and lifts nearly 5 million Americans out of poverty every year. I was able to expand this program when I was a state Senator in Illinois, and as President I'll do it again.

The fourth part of my plan will be to help bring businesses back to our inner-cities. A long time ago,

this country created a World Bank that has helped spur economic development in some of the world's poorest regions. I think it's about time we had something like that right here in America. Less than one percent of the \$250 billion in venture capital that's invested each year goes to minority businesses that are trying to breathe life into our cities. This has to change.

When I'm President, I'll make sure that every community has the access to the capital and resources it needs to create a stronger business climate by providing more loans to small businesses and setting up the financial institutions that can help get them started. I'll also create a national network of business incubators, which are local services that help first-time business owners design their business plans, find the best location, and receive expert advice on how to run their businesses whenever they need it. And I will take steps to help close the digital divide and increase internet access for cities so that urban America is just as connected as the rest of America.

The final part of my plan to change the odds in our cities will be to ensure that more Americans have access to safe, affordable housing. As President, I'll create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that would add as many as 112,000 new affordable units in mixed income neighborhoods. We'll also do more to protect homeowners from mortgage fraud and subprime lending by passing my plan to provide counseling to tenants, homeowners, and other consumers so they get the advice and guidance they need before buying a house and support if they get in to trouble down the road. And we will crack down on mortgage professionals found guilty of fraud by increasing enforcement and creating new criminal penalties.

What this agenda to combat urban poverty attempts to do is not easy, and it will not happen overnight. Changing the odds in our cities will require humility in what we can accomplish and patience with our progress. But most importantly, it will require the sustained commitment of the President of the United States, and that is why I will also appoint a new director of Urban Policy who will cut through the disorganized bureaucracy that currently exists and report directly to me on how these efforts are going; on what's working and what's not.

Because in the end, hope is found in what works.

The moral question about poverty in America – How can a country like this allow it? – has an easy answer: we can't. The political question that follows – What do we do about it? – has always been more difficult. But now that we're finally seeing the beginnings of an answer, this country has an obligation to keep trying.

The idea for the Harlem Children's Zone began with a list. It was a waiting list that Geoffrey Canada kept of all the children who couldn't get into his program back when it was just a few blocks wide. It was 500 people long. And one day he looked at that list and thought, why shouldn't those 500 kids get the same chance in life as the 500 who were already in the program? Why not expand it to include those 500? Why not 5000? Why not?

And that, of course, is the final question about poverty in America. It's the hopeful one that Bobby Kennedy was also famous for asking. Why not? It leaves the cynics without an answer, and it calls on the rest of us to get to work. I will be doing exactly that from the first day I become your President, and I ask you all to join me in getting it done. Thank you.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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max dugan (2008-02-20 11:25:00)

I like the basic elements of the plan. The key is in helping small business flourish. The vast majority of American jobs are created by small business owners.

As a small business owner I need a reliable and dedicated workforce. I need employees who can read and write english. I need employees who have a work ethic. I need employees who are drug and alcohol free.

By easing the restrictions on SBA loans I can grow my business out and transform it into a major enterprise.

My second biggest challenge is controlling the rising cost of gasoline and the declining purchasing power of our dollar.

We would be better off if President elect Obama implemented a 10:1 reverse split on the dollar and at the same time returned us to the gold standard. The last time the dollar was worth 100 cents was in 1933. The purchasing power of the 2008 dollar against the 1933 dollar is .000000000000000001.

Another side of Barack (2007-07-18 18:45)

Turns out that the California office I had reported on earlier is not connected with Obama for America.

Instead it belongs to an independent 527 PAC known as Californians for Obama chaired by Emmett Cash III.

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out an email today with an interesting video of the Dinner with Barack event showing "another side of Barack."

A week ago, four supporters from all over the country were flown to our nation's capital to share a meal – and their stories – with Barack Obama.

The conversation covered topics ranging from the war in Iraq to student loans to poverty.

But they also talked about cartoons, YouTube, and teaching kids to ride bikes.

You've got to watch this video:



<http://my.barackobama.com/dinner>

These dinner guests were not Washington lobbyists or representatives of special interests.

They were small-dollar donors who participated in our Dinner with Barack campaign – Christina, Haile, Michael, and Margaret each gave between \$5 and \$25 and got the kind of personal time with Barack that other politicians reserve for the wealthy and powerful.

In addition to the video from the dinner, we have four more short video profiles of each of the participants. Watch the videos, and let us know what you would have asked Barack if you'd been there:

<http://my.barackobama.com/dinner>

Thank you so much for your support.

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

P.S. – One of the dinner guests, Haile Rivera, works with New York City food pantries and spoke to Barack about the challenges of the urban poor. Today, Barack gave a speech outlining his agenda to combat urban poverty. For more on Barack's vision and plan to revitalize our urban centers, click here:

<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/fightingpoverty/>

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Anonymous (2008-06-28 06:44:00)

THE POSITION OF MISTER OBAMA ON THE DEATH PENALTY IS FOR ME NOT COMPATIBLE WITH MY PICTURE OF CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. ON THE GROUNDS OF MISTER OBAMAS COMMENTS CONCERNING THE DEATH PENALTY I AM WITHDRAWING MY SUPPORT FOR THE OBAMA CANDIDACY.

Critics roil at Obama's broad appeal (2007-07-18 20:41)

One of the latest

Barack Obama started out helping the poor (2007-07-19 09:35)

When Barack Obama revealed his plan to address urban poverty yesterday, he was touching a subject close to his heart.

After graduating from Columbia University, Obama left a corporate job to work as a community organizer in the tough South Side of Chicago. He worked in neighborhoods hit by plant closures.

Three years later, Obama left for Harvard University to get his law degree. He went with the express purpose of eventually getting involved in politics. Obama wanted to make change and he had come to the conclusion that it was necessary to break into the world of electoral politics to accomplish his goals.

When he graduated from Harvard with magna cum laude honors, Obama was offered lucrative corporate positions but turned them down. He did not forget his commitment to make a difference, which included making a difference in poor urban neighborhoods.

After winning a seat on the Illinois State Senate, Obama worked on passing a new earned income tax credit and on health-care reform.

Obama made the war against urban poverty a focal point both of his U.S. Senate and presidential campaigns. For info on his current positions, visit the following page:

<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/fightingpoverty/>

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Barack's cash from early states, online ads (2007-07-20 08:42)

If fundraising is used as the measure of support in early states like Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina, Barack Obama would lead in New Hampshire, John Edwards would take Iowa and South Carolina and Hillary Clinton

would run away with Nevada.

Barack Obama raised \$111,251 in New Hampshire compared to Hillary Clinton's \$71,225 and John Edwards' \$39,626. Barack raised \$63,685 in Iowa compared to Hillary Clinton's \$41,809 and John Edwards' \$67,566.

Obama has \$188,860 in South Carolina to Hillary's \$77,114 and Edwards' \$226,555. Edwards was born in South Carolina and is based in neighboring North Carolina.

In Nevada, Barack pulled in \$105,960 compared to Hillary's \$395,730 and Edwards' \$96,240.

Interestingly, Barack comes in first or second in all races, never third.

Online ads in New Hampshire

Obama for America will launch an online ad campaign on wmur.com in New Hampshire.

The ads reportedly will feature Obama speaking to the viewers.

"So you're not (getting) sort of a pat, handler sort of line come out of him, but you have him deal with questions in a grounded, intelligent, sincere way," said Obama campaign volunteer Peter Beeson.

Bill Richardson and John Edwards are currently running television ads in New Hampshire. Richardson touts his plan to end the Iraq War, while the Edwards ad features his wife Elizabeth.

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New Obama offices in Charleston, Chicago (2007-07-20 16:26)

The Obama campaign opened a new office in Charleston, South Carolina ahead of the CNN/YouTube debates on Monday. Michelle Obama's older brother Craig Robinson attended and 80 volunteers attended the event.



Charleston office. You can submit questions for the CNN/YouTube debate here.
In Chicago, Michelle Obama and Sen. Dick Durbin helped open the new Obama volunteer headquarters office. Durbin said that a host of volunteers would soon be needed to campaign in Iowa. Michelle told the crowd that he office will be open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

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Barack Obama: Pressure NH senators on Iraq (2007-07-21 14:34)

Speaking in New Hampshire, Barack Obama urged supporters to pressure the state's senators to vote for an end to the Iraq War.

"We've got a couple Senators here in New Hampshire who say they agree we need a new course, but didn't vote like that in Washington," said Barack. "We're going to have to put some pressure on them to tell them that if they understand that this war is no longer helping make us safer, that they've got to vote in that fashion."

[EMBED]

Barack will be at the AFSCME convention in Des Moines tonight, at the Council of La Raza in Florida on Sunday and at the CNN/YouTube debate on Monday night.

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Obama says he'll walk picket line after elected (2007-07-21 20:12)

Barack Obama addressed the annual convention of Council 61 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Des Moines, Iowa today.

He told members that he would walk the picket line as president if organized labor helped him into office.

"I stood on the picket line and marched with workers at the Congress Hotel in Chicago last week," said Obama. "I had marched with them four years earlier and I told them when I left that if they were still fighting four years from now, I'd be back on that picket line as president of the United States."

Obama spoke of the need to break the gridlock that's hampered progress in Washington.

"We've heard promises and slogans about change before," said Obama. "The road to Washington is often paved with good intentions, but it always ends in the same divisive, polarizing politics that's blocked real progress for so many years."

Michelle Obama and Sen. Dick Durbin at opening of Chicago Volunteer Headquarters
[EMBED]

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Barack Obama to visit Sacramento (2007-07-22 11:54)

Sen. Barack Obama will finally be visiting Sacramento on Aug. 8 and we at Sacramento for Obama are preparing to greet him.

The purpose of the visit is a high-end fundraising luncheon thrown by the Friedmans with a goal of raising at least \$250,000.

Sacramento for Obama volunteers are arranging a rally and media event outside the venue, which houses Mikuni and PF Changs restaurants.

If you live in the area, you can sign up for the Sacramento Obama rally [here](#).

Before coming to Sacramento, Obama will be at the College Democrats of America Convention at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, and on Aug. 10 he will again visit Las Vegas.

BarackObama.com continues to show a high level of volunteer activity with 671 events listed on that site today:
[barackobama.com](#) volunteer events

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Obama campaign loses advisor to military duty (2007-07-23 10:01)

The Naval Reserve has called Mark Lippert, Obama’s top foreign policy adviser, to active duty. Lippert, a master’s graduate from Stanford University, is a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy, which he joined three years ago. Obama for America told reporters that Denis McDonough, a former foreign-policy adviser to then-Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, will increase his involvement in Lippert’s absence.

Obama to offer rural policy

Sen. Obama plans to host a rural policy forum on Friday in Dallas County, Iowa, in mid-August focusing on rural economic development, quality of life, agriculture and green energy.

”People in the rural economies suffer from many of the things people do all across the country,” Obama told the Associated Press.

Obama also announced a team of experts that will help him develop his rural policy.

They include:

- Mike Dunn, of Keokuk, former Clinton under secretary of agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs ,
- Gary Lamb, of Chelsea, has served as president of the Iowa Farmers Union, chairman of the Iowa State Committee of the Farm Service Agency and an agricultural liaison for Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.
- Neil Hamilton, of Waukee, director of the Agricultural Law Center at Drake University. In 2000, he was appointed by Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack as chairman of the Iowa Food Policy Council.

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CNN/YouTube debate (2007-07-23 18:39)

I'm watching the CNN analysis of the recently-completed CNN-YouTube debates as I write this blog. Barack turned in a solid performance, although its hard to predict how the media will spin the outcome. One of the most enthusiastic responses to any of the candidates came when Barack answered a question on reparations for African American slavery. He said that the best form of reparations would come in the way of providing a good education to young African Americans. Each candidate was asked to provide a YouTube-style video that was broadcast during the debate. Barack had what I thought as by far the best campaign-produced video. Check it out:
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Obama gets rave reviews, launches S.C. ads (2007-07-24 08:04)

Barack Obama won the polls from both the CNN and Fox News focus groups and generally received good reviews from the press and bloggers for his debate performance last night. It was also announced today that Obama for America will begin a radio ad campaign in South Carolina, the location of the CNN-YouTube debate. The ad will begin airing Wednesday on 36 radio stations that target mainly African American listeners. Obama appears to be making sure that Hillary Clinton doesn't make inroads in South Carolina, while he campaigns vigorously in Iowa. His campaign currently has two television ads running in Iowa and an online ad campaign was purchased on wmur.com in New Hampshire. Read more about the South Carolina ads [here](#).

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Barack dominates debate (2007-07-24 11:14)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out an email today touting Barack Obama's performance in the CNN-YouTube debate last night. Here is the full text along with video:

Barack Obama's performance stood above the competition in last night's debate as he continued to show the qualities that will make him a strong Commander in Chief.

He displayed the judgment that led him to oppose the war in Iraq before it began and reminded the other candidates that the time to ask how we were going to get out of Iraq was before we went in.

Watch the video and share it with your friends:



<http://my.BarackObama.com/DebateSC>

Televised debates are notorious for rehearsed sound bites and canned answers. Barack demonstrated his leadership by speaking with passion and personal conviction about education, Social Security , and changing the way Washington works.

This morning's news coverage declared Barack the clear winner of the debate. Here's a sample of what they had to say:

Time and time again Obama sought to take specific questions and broaden them into a conversation over who represented real change in the field. He castigated lobbyists and special interests in Washington , offering a sweeping condemnation of business as usual (by both parties) in the nation's capital. "We don't need just a change in political parties," said Obama. "We need a change in attitudes of the people representing Americans."

– Chris Cillizza, Washington Post

We're here with 24 Democrats, independents, who thought that Senator Hillary Clinton would be the best performer here tonight, but the results that we just got in, this is a focus group; show that Barack Obama got the most favorable in terms of the best performance from the 24 people who are here tonight.

– Mary Snow, CNN

Watch Barack's performance and help build our movement for change:

<http://my.BarackObama.com/DebateSC>

We also heard from hundreds of supporters who shared their reactions via Obama mobile:

I loved Obama's comment that we're not going to fix anything until 'we change how business is done in Washington .' As usual, he was spot-on. I have faith that Barack is THE candidate to facilitate these changes. He has shown commitment time and again that he will work across lines of party, race, & religion to make progress in America. United, we can make a difference!

– Lisa in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Once again Barack applied a common sense approach in his response tonight. I was also pleased he continued to reinforce his message of unity. O8AMA!!

– Russ in Cary, Illinois

Barack, you were the best one there and should be the obvious choice for those of us who want true, real, and honest change. Keep it up!

– Tessa in Rochester, New York

Barack's victory in last night's debate was decisive, but he cannot win the Democratic nomination alone. It's up to all of us to spread the word and build this movement for change.

Thanks for your support,

David

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America

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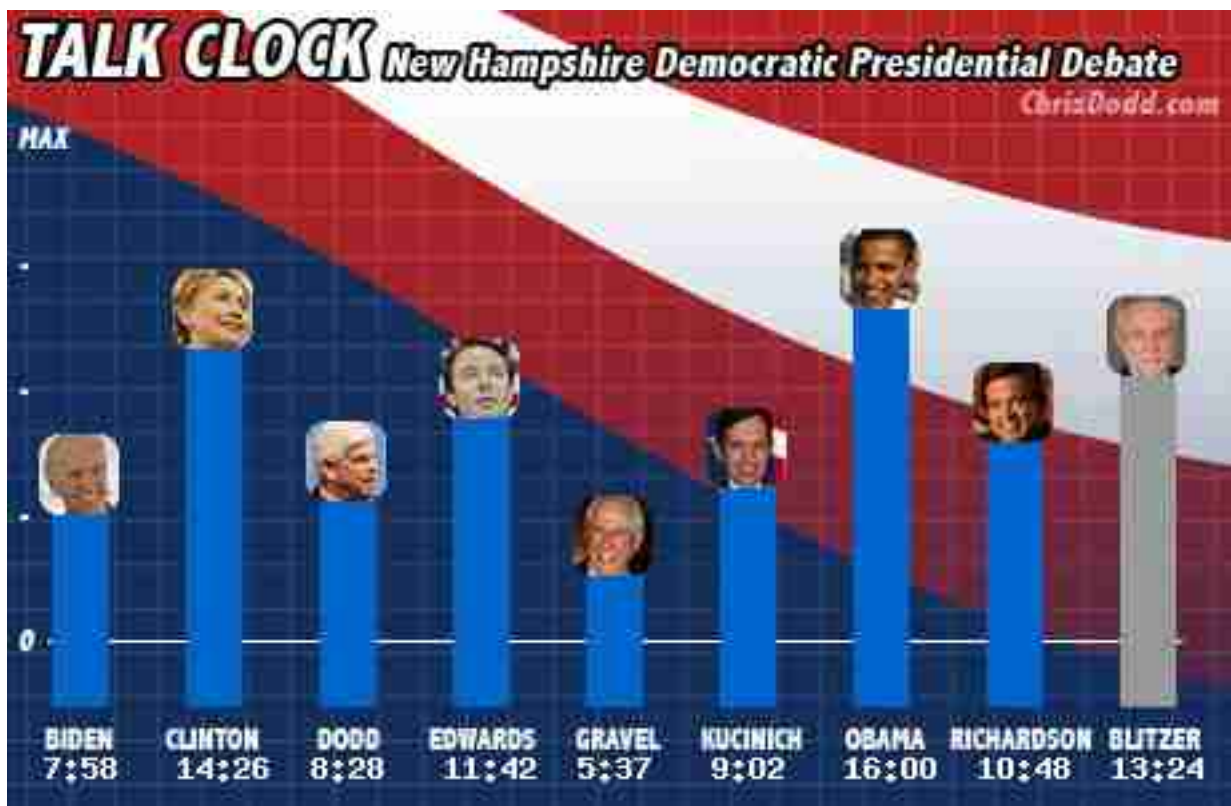
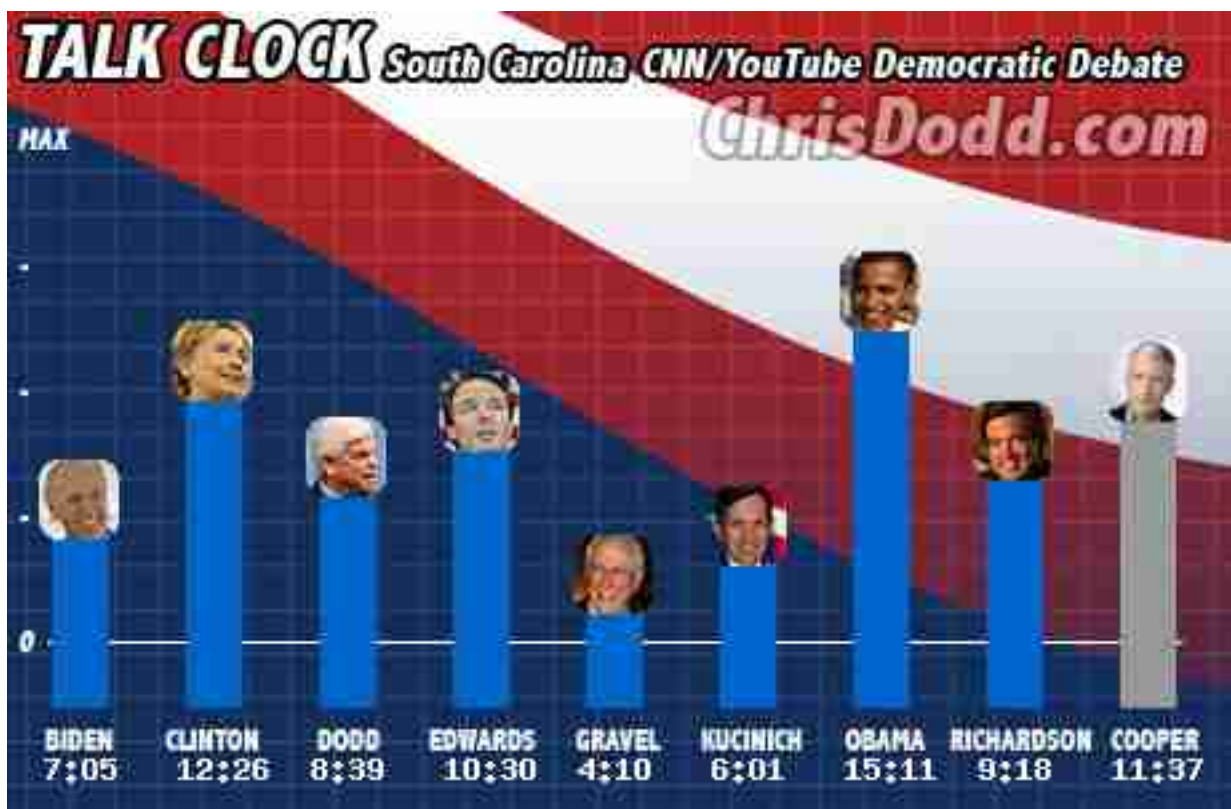
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Is CNN secretly supporting Barack Obama? (2007-07-24 15:27)

Some people are suggesting that CNN is endorsing Barack Obama based on the "Talk Clocks" created at ChrisDodd.com.

Here are the clocks for last night's debate moderated by Anderson Cooper and the New Hampshire debated moderated by Wolf Blitzer.



While Obama does get the most speaking time of all the candidates, the reason may have more to do with ratings than covert support.

CNN after all wants to draw the largest audience possible, to help pay the bills, and Obama is probably attracts the largest audience share.

Missouri state auditor endorses Obama

Barack Obama did receive an open endorsement today from Missouri State Auditor Susan Montee. Montee, a former delegate for John Edwards, is the first statewide official in Missouri to endorse a presidential candidate.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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diamondebs (2007-07-25 06:47:00)
CNN is not secretly supporting Obama. Now listen to this- are you ready?
Look at the talk once more. What you see on those charts is Divine intervention. I here the spirit of the Lord saying, that is the preference and likely outcome of the democratic nomination:
1- Barack Obama
2- Hillary clinton
3- John Edwards
4- Bill Richardson
5- Denis Kucinich
6- Chriss Dodd
7- Joe Biden
8- Mike Gravel

Obama leads on diplomacy (2007-07-25 11:24)

Katrina vanden Heuvel has it right in her opinion piece on how Obama had it right. Growing up the first I ever heard of this strategy was in reference to Israel's refusal to talk with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Of course, eventually Israel saw the light and did talk with Arafat. Not negotiating with certain countries and leaders was viewed as a way of combating terrorism by Bill Clinton's administration and has been used in that way ever since. Obviously it has done little to stop terrorism. The two significant foreign terrorist attacks in the U.S., the first WTC attack and 9-11, occurred after the adoption of this policy. Not talking did not stop North Korea from testing a nuclear weapon. It also did not stop Iran from becoming what many consider to be the most powerful nation in the Middle East these days. Stonewalling nations only drives them further into isolation and runs the risk of incubating a truly strong and relatively self-sufficient enemy.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Two House Reps endorse Obama (2007-07-25 16:19)

CNN sources claim that New Hampshire Rep. Paul Hodes will endorse Sen. Barack Obama's for president. New Hampshire's other representative Democrat Carol Shea-Porter has not endorsed a candidate yet. In New Jersey, Steve Rothman officially endorsed Obama today.

"Last week's National Intelligence Estimate proves that we are no safer than we were before the attacks of Sept. 11th," said Rothman. "It's time to turn the page and bring an end to the Bush-Cheney foreign policy that has left Americans vulnerable here at home and reduced matters of war and national defense to signs and slogans. Barack Obama is the best candidate for President, with the strength and character to change our broken politics and restore America's standing in the world. He will engage in the aggressive diplomacy necessary to hold countries that pose the greatest threats to our national security accountable. Senator Obama also possesses the resolve to use military force, if necessary, to protect America."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama names Hodes national co-chair (2007-07-26 07:54)

Barack Obama named New Hampshire Rep. Paul Hodes as one of his national campaign co-chairs as Hodes announced his endorsement of Obama.

The two appeared together in Concord, New Hampshire today. Hodes said of his endorsement:

"Barack and I share an optimistic vision for this country and we share the belief that change is possible when people come together. Campaigning across New Hampshire this fall, people told me that they believe this country can be great again—but they know that we need a new kind of politics if we're going to make progress on the issues that confront us around the world. In Barack Obama, we have a leader who will turn the page on our narrow-minded foreign policy, a leader who will end the war in Iraq and who realizes, just like JFK and Ronald Reagan did, that being a strong nation means having the strength to talk to our enemies."

Hodes' endorsement is a major break for the Obama campaign in the first primary state of New Hampshire.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Dinner with Barack II (2007-07-26 13:24)

The first Dinner with Barack event was very popular with supporters and today campaign manager David Plouffe sent out an email announcing a second to chance to dine with the candidate:

Dear Paul Kekai,

✕ After watching the video of the first Dinner with Barack, thousands of you sent messages asking for another opportunity to participate.

Here's what you had to say:

"This is one of the coolest events I've ever witnessed. Ordinary citizens are never afforded this kind of opportunity – to sit down with someone who might be the leader of the free world and have the opportunity to discuss policies and issues. I contributed just as the others did, and I feel as if they were sitting in those chairs representing all of us out here. Just regular folk having their voices heard. Amazing. Yes! Yes! Do it again!!!"

– Tim in Chehalis, WA

"The dinner video of the Senator and his guests was great. I was very inspired by watching it. This really demonstrates Senator Obama's genuineness and compassion for others. Just to see him sit down, eat, talk and listen to the concerns of average people. This says a lot about his leadership and is the kind of example we need to see more of."

– JoAnn in Moss Point, MI

"First I've got to say WOW! Did i just see a Presidential Candidate sit down with regular folk? WOW! Seriously, I just want to say thank you. This is the first time I have ever felt passion for an election. I am so excited."

– Roger in Lakewood, CA

"This was great. Absolutely you should do it again. I liked the short films profiling the dinner guests too. My Dad sent this link to me, and he would only connect to a politician who seems like a real person. So, you're doing something good here."

– David in Jamaica Plain, MA

"Excellent! This format shows much more than the standard sound bite. It really gives a person a glimpse of the real Obama: down to earth, in-touch with the concerns of American citizens. I would suggest expanding this format of 'Dinner with Barack' into a series."

– Donald in Hallowell, ME

As much as you enjoyed the dinner, no one enjoyed it more than Barack. As soon as it was over he asked, "When are we doing the next one?"

Thank you for your past support. You have helped build this movement, and now you have an opportunity to meet Barack and share your story and your ideas. Here are the details:

If you make a donation in any amount, even as little as five dollars, before 11:59 pm EDT on Tuesday, July 31st, you could join Barack Obama and three other supporters for an intimate dinner for five:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner> Barack's guests told us that the dinner worked out even better than they expected. The casual, friendly atmosphere allowed them to engage Barack on a number of issues that affect them personally.

One of the guests, Christina Cheatham, blogged about her experience:

"The Senator not only spoke candidly with us about many different issues, but he also took interest in how some of the current policies affect our daily lives.

Most important to me, while he is very confident in his own ideas for America, he is still willing to listen – really listen – to dissenting views."

Watch a short video of Barack's dinner with Christina, Haile, Margaret, and Michael. They discussed the war in Iraq, student loans, health care, and urban poverty.

What issues are important to you, and what would you ask Barack if you had the chance?

Share your story and make a small donation before 11:59 pm EDT on Tuesday, July 31st, and you could have dinner with Barack:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner> At a time when Washington lobbyists and special interests are poisoning our politics with their influence, Barack Obama wants to sit down with you and hear what's on your mind.

Our movement has rejected the easy money of politics as usual. Instead, we put our faith in you, and more than a quarter-million supporters have proven that we made the right decision.

The vast majority – more than 90 % – of our donations came from supporters giving \$100 or less. However, to make a lasting change in this country we must keep building this base of support.

Make a small donation and you could have the kind of dinner with Barack that other politicians reserve for the wealthy elite:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner> Thank you for your support,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

P.S. – Barack got involved in politics to advance the concerns of ordinary people and serve the common good of all Americans. There is no better source of ideas or inspiration to make this happen than an intimate conversation with supporters like you. Make a small donation before 11:59 pm on July 31st and you could have dinner with Barack:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner>

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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New Obama downloads available @ barackobama.com (2007-07-26 18:29)

BarackObama.com has come up with a new set of downloads – banners, logos, widgets even a dynamic timeline – for supporters to install on their websites, blogs, social networking pages, etc.

Here is the message announcing the new download page from the official blog:

Please visit our new downloads page at www.barackobama.com/downloads and get new webtools to better stay connected with our movement. The pages includes badges, buttons, logos, and more to help you customize your website; buddy icons to show your support for Barack on instant messenger devices; and even widgets to customize your myspace and iGoogle pages with our latest news and video feeds.

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Also check out the “Our Story” widget. This new social networking tool allows us to share a quick timeline and background of Barack’s amazing career. It also will continue to grow as we add important moments in the days ahead.

[EMBED] With more than 250,000 friends on MySpace and Facebook – These download tools are a great way to keep our members engaged and informed.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama leads iowa mock election, launches new ads (2007-07-27 09:54)

Sen. Barack Obama leads the Johnson County Fair mock election according to an Auditor’s Office press release.

As of 11 a.m. Thursday, Obama took the lead with 163 votes. Hillary Clinton is second with 115 votes, and John Edwards is third with 82 votes.

A total of 474 Democratic ballots were cast.

Of the 158 total Republican ballots, Mitt Romney took the lead, with 48 votes followed by Rudy Giuliani with 26 votes and Fred Thompson, with 13 votes.

New banner ads defend Barack’s position

The Obama campaign is rolling out a new banner ad today that will appear in the Concord Monitor, Des Moines Register and other New Hampshire and Iowa newspaper websites.

The ad defends Barack’s position on diplomacy.

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IFRAME: <http://www.barackobama.com/judgmentmatters.html>

<http://www.barackobama.com/judgmentmatters.html>

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama: Special interests blocking rural reform (2007-07-28 08:48)

Speaking at a rural issues forum in Iowa, Barack Obama said that lobbyists and special interest groups are blocking progress on rural reform.

"Washington lobbyists are working in Congress to block the rural reforms you need," Obama said. "Rather than investing in rural opportunity, our government is handing out subsidies to corporate mega-farms. Over the past decade, our government has handed out \$1.3 billion in federal farm money to people who aren't even farmers. We've even got farm money going to Fortune 500 companies."

Surge in Obama videos

In addition to the videos on YouTube, Barack Obama supporters have produced a number of good videos on sites like Veoh.

Here is a sample:

"Young Barack Obama" by Rem Steele

[EMBED]

Online Videos by Veoh.com

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-07-28 15:16)

Here are some nice campaign pics of Barack Obama talking to people in Iowa about rural issues.



Today, he spoke in Winterset in front of one of the famous bridges of Madison County.



For more on Barack's trip through Iowa, check out Iowa.BarackObama.com.

Obama stumps in Iowa, New Hampshire (2007-07-28 15:16)

Here are some nice campaign pics of Barack Obama talking to people in Iowa about rural issues.



In front of one of the famous bridges of Madison County.



For more on Barack's trip through Iowa, check out Iowa.BarackObama.com. Earlier this week Barack gave this foreign policy talk while in New Hampshire:

[EMBED]

Obama volunteers continue to maintain a high level of activity with some 690 volunteer events listed on barack-obama.com.

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A Hefty influence on young Barack (2007-07-29 10:03)

When Barack Obama was asked on the CNN-YouTube debate to name his favorite teacher he mentioned Mabel Hefty of Punahou School in Honolulu.

A story from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin suggests that Hefty made quite an impression on other students at Punahou as well including others who rose to success like Polynesian Voyaging Society head Nainoa Thompson.

Interestingly, Barack Obama had also made quite an impression on Hefty according to her daughter Carolyn Whorff. According to Whorff, before her mother died and before Obama had ever ventured into politics, his name came up in conversation.

"I know he's going to be somebody," Hefty told her daughter. "You probably will hear about him. If you do, look him up."

Hefty had a special interest in Obama also as she had worked herself in Kenya for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

She once invited Obama's father to speak in class during the latter's visit to Hawai'i.

"I was just coming from overseas, coming back to the United States, felt a little bit out of place," Obama recalled Monday at the CNN/YouTube debate. "And she had actually lived in Kenya and worked there and taught there, and was able to give me some sense that even though I had experiences outside this country, those were actually valuable and important."

Read the whole story of Mabel Hefty and Barack Obama.



COURTESY PUNAHOU SCHOOL

Mabel Hefty with the Hawaiian quilt given to her by Punahou School upon her retirement in 1980.

[CLICK FOR LARGE](#)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama has progressive in Illinois State Senate (2007-07-30 08:23)

The New York Times has a nice article on Barack Obama has a neophyte, former community organizer senator at a time when the Illinois State Senate was dominated by Republicans.

“One of my first comments to Barack was, ‘What the hell are you doing here?’ ” said Denny Jacobs, a former senator and self-described “backroom politician, not one of those do-gooders that stands up front and says we got to make changes.”

Senator Obama’s answer? “He looked at me sort of strange.”

Obama comments on experience at Indianapolis fundraiser

A WISHTV8 reporter questioned Barack Obama at an Indianapolis fundraiser about talk that the current diplomacy rift with Hillary Clinton shows his lack of experience.

“Well, actually that’s not what people are saying. That’s what some of the pundits are saying. The people aren’t saying that at all because they recognize that, if we keep on doing the same things that we’ve been doing over and over and over and they don’t work, at some point you should try something different.”

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Obama in Vibe Magazine and other news (2007-07-30 10:06)

Candidate Barack Obama is featured on the cover of the latest issue of Vibe magazine along with an accompanying article inside.

Vibe is an urban/music magazine catering toward the African American community and founded by producer Quincy Jones.

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Hank Johnson supports Obama

U.S. Rep Hank Johnson of Georgia became the first Democratic congressional representative in that state to endorse Barack Obama.

Johnson stresses Iraq as a key issue in his support for Obama:

“Today more than ever, a fundamental change in the way we do our business in Washington is crucial,” said Johnson. “Barack Obama, who had the sound judgment to oppose the Iraq War early on, is the only candidate who will turn the page on this disastrous foreign policy and lead our nation to a new standing in the world.”

Barack talks “big tent” with CBN In an interview with CBN, the fundamentalist broadcasting network run by Pat Robertson, Obama had this to say on religious tolerance:

Whatever we once were, we’re no longer just a Christian nation; we are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of non-believers. We should acknowledge this and realize that when we’re formulating policies from the state house to the Senate floor to the White

House, we've got to work to translate our reasoning into values that are accessible to every one of our citizens, not just members of our own faith community.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Grist interviews Barack Obama (2007-07-30 21:02)

Environmental mag *Grist* has published an interview with Barack Obama about his presidential platform on energy and the environment.

Amanda Griscom Little interviews Barack as part of series on the environmental policies of presidential candidates. Here's an excerpt:

Q. How central will energy and the environment be to your campaign?

A. I consider energy to be one of the three most important issues that we are facing domestically, along with revamping our education system and reforming our health-care systems. The opportunities for significant change exist partly because the awareness of the threat of climate change has grown rapidly over the last couple of years. Al Gore deserves a lot of credit for that, as do environmental activists and outlets like *Grist*. People are ready to recognize the magnitude of the climate problem and take it on.

On the controversial issue of liquid coal, with southern Illinois being rich in coal deposits, Obama says:

Our original bill on coal-to-liquids – which generated a lot of heat in the environmental community, no pun intended – proposed \$200 million for demonstration projects, to see where this technology might take us.

If the technology exists for us to use coal in a clean fashion, then that is something all of us should welcome, particularly because China and India are building coal-fired power plants at a rapid rate, and they likely have lifespans of several decades. Coal is a cheaper resource, and they're going to be figuring out a way to exploit it, so we should help to find technologies that will ensure that if it is used, it is used cleanly. The U.S. is recognized as the global leader in understanding better geologic coal-sequestration technologies. If we abandon that leadership, we risk leaving the rest of the planet wide open to investing billions in polluting infrastructure.

But I stress again that my position has been consistent throughout: If we are using coal in the absence of these clean technologies, then we are going to be

And on nuclear power:

I think that with nuclear power, we have got to see if there are ways for us to store the radioactive material in a safe, environmentally sound way, and if we can do that and deal with the some of the safely and security issues, [nuclear power] is something that we should look at.

Note that Illinois has made huge investments in nuclear power and has the largest nuclear industry in the nation.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Iredeu (2007-07-31 20:45:00)

I feel that when we are talking about developing an alternative (CTL) to current petroleum based fuels, it is somewhat unfair to put in a pre-requisite that it has to emit 20 % less CO2 than current solutions. Any technology that is in its infant stages needs a level playing field. Mind you, I would be FOR putting that 20 % pre-requisite for CTL in place, but I think in that case you would have to be FOR the exact same cap of 20 % on CO2 emissions from current petroleum based fuels. Then the government would take the lead without influencing the free market.

Oprah's fundraiser reportedly sold out (2007-07-31 08:40)

According to Lynn Sweet, Oprah's big celebrity fundraiser for Barack Obama has already sold out. Even members of Obama's own finance committee are said to have received only seven tickets for the big bash on on Sept. 8 at Oprah's Santa Barbara home. Tickets start at \$2,300. In Dallas yesterday, Obama

attended three fundraisers, one at Hotel Crescent Court, a low-ticket event at Gilley's for younger supporters, and a picnic at a private home in Prosper.

Obama also received more good news from New Hampshire where State Sen. Jackie Cilley pledged her support for Barack.

"I intend to work on this campaign. This isn't just an endorsement," she said. "I have an opportunity to really participate."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



DANIELLECLARKE (2007-07-31 13:39:00)

I gave \$50.00 yesterday for a friend I know who has been working real hard for the Obama Campaign for change in hopes he gets picked. His name is Sheldon from Doylestown PA.

Myself I can't get the time away due to having no car or transportation. I also am a disabled Vietnam veteran living with an 84 yr old woman. She needs my help and thanks to her I am not homeless. I get a couch to sleep on and free food. This is a blessing to me. Sometimes she even lets me borrow her 2003 Honda Hybrid, which she did last week so I could drive to Virginia and see my 90 yr old WWII veteran Dad. He just had a stroke. He can't talk and he didn't want to apply for veteran benefits because he was more concerned with Iraq veterans needing help. My dad lays in a old bed in a Medicaid facility. The bed is the crank up style. They don't have air conditioning. Right now I am awaiting an approval for my dad to get into a veterans facility close to me in Philadelphia, but I have to wait because he never applied previously and I have had to apply for him myself.

I am very hopeful Barack gets elected so he can help elders and veterans and homeless to be able to save elders (Like the woman I am helping) from going into old age homes by creating a program for students to share homes with the elderly.

All I can say is I am giving everything I can to help Barack get elected. I am past 1/2 way in what I am allowed for primary giving. I have never before donated to a candidate. I can now because I get a small VA pension and well I can't but help this man (as well as my own two children's college fund and my two kids in Lusaka Zambia I adopted through World Vision and Christian Children's Fund).

I would hope and pray everyone who can afford to help would do so. I am thankful for those with extra cash to be able to go to fundraisers for Barack.

Also there is a fundraiser for the National Food Bank that is running until August 15th. It's for Barack's 46th birthday August 4th. Please donate to it. To make your contribution go to

<http://help.secondharvest.org/obama>

I gave \$100.00 but you can give less but please give in Barack's Name.

Respectfully yours

Danielle Clarke

Obama to air new Iowa ad (2007-07-31 15:51)

Obama for America announced Tuesday that it will begin airing a new ad in Iowa focused on ethics reform in Washington.

And speaking of Washington, the Arlington Young Democrats plan to auction off 20 dates in support of Sen. Obama's presidential campaign.

The group, which helped Jim Webb's senate campaign, will raise funds for the Obama campaign on Aug. 25.

"Over 100 young professionals from all over the DC-Metro area will meet on Wednesday night for an event to change America... and possibly their love lives," organizer Jim McBride announced.

Don't forget if you want to qualify for Dinner with Barack, you must donate at least \$5 by 11:59 pm tonight. Here's an email appeal sent out by Barack last night:

Dear Friend,

A couple of weeks ago I sat down to dinner with four supporters like you.

Christina, Haile, Margaret, and Michael each made a small online donation, and we flew them across the country for some good food and good conversation.

What I enjoyed most about this dinner was the opportunity to listen to the stories and concerns of ordinary Americans in a relaxed environment. Out on the campaign trail, there isn't always time for that kind of interaction.

Last week we started planning our second dinner, and on Friday evening at 6:42 pm, a woman named Dorothy Unruh of Lakewood, Colorado made a donation.

I'm pleased to announce that Dorothy will be one of my guests for the second dinner. You could join us if you make a small donation before 11:59 pm tomorrow, Tuesday, July 31st:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner>

Here's what Dorothy told us about herself:

I'm a senior citizen fed up with the current state of our government. I'm sad that our great nation has lost its stature in the eyes of the rest of the world. I have been a registered Republican for years, but recently officially changed parties so I can attend the Democratic caucus and help elect Senator Obama. He is like a breath of fresh air to my husband and me. Dorothy has never taken part in a political campaign before, but she and millions of other voters who want change are going to be the key to Democratic victories up and down the ballot next year.

I'm looking forward to having dinner with Dorothy, but there are still three seats left at the table. Will you be in one of them?

If you make a donation by 11:59 pm tomorrow, Tuesday, July 31st, you could join us for dinner very soon: <https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner>

We'll pay for your trip and the meal – all you need to bring is your story and your ideas about how to make this a better country for all Americans.

Small donations from ordinary Americans have set our campaign apart and allowed us to reject the influence of Washington lobbyists and special interest groups. Not only is your support the key to our success, it's essential to reclaiming a government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people. I hope you will make a donation now and participate in this opportunity. Take ownership of your part in this campaign and strengthen your role in our movement.

Together we can put an end to pay-for-influence politics. We can turn the page in Washington, and it all begins with you.

Thank you for your support,

✕

Barack Obama

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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1.8 August

Obama unveils plan to fight terrorism (2007-08-01 09:36)

Sen. Barack Obama outlined his national security plan in a speech today at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The plan stresses that the Iraq War has distracted important resources needed to combat terrorist groups, and that Washington must talk with its "enemies."

Here is the full text of the speech:

Thank you Lee, for hosting me here at the Wilson Center, and for your leadership of both the 9/11 Commission and the Iraq Study Group. You have been a steady voice of reason in an unsteady time.

Let me also say that my thoughts and prayers are with your colleague, Haleh Esfandiari, and her family. I have made my position known to the Iranian government. It is time for Haleh to be released. It is time for Haleh to come home.

Thanks to the 9/11 Commission, we know that six years ago this week President Bush received a briefing with the headline: "Bin Ladin determined to strike in U.S."

It came during what the Commission called the "summer of threat," when the "system was blinking red" about an impending attack. But despite the briefing, many felt the danger was overseas, a threat to embassies and military installations. The extremism, the resentment, the terrorist training camps, and the killers were in the dark corners of the world, far away from the American homeland.

Then, one bright and beautiful Tuesday morning, they were here.

I was driving to a state legislative hearing in downtown Chicago when I heard the news on my car radio: a plane had hit the World Trade Center. By the time I got to my meeting, the second plane had hit, and we were told to evacuate.

People gathered in the streets and looked up at the sky and the Sears Tower, transformed from a workplace to a target. We feared for our families and our country. We mourned the terrible loss suffered by our fellow citizens. Back at my law office, I watched the images from New York: a plane vanishing into glass and steel; men and women clinging to windowsills, then letting go; tall towers crumbling to dust. It seemed all of the misery and all of the evil in the world were in that rolling black cloud, blocking out the September sun.

What we saw that morning forced us to recognize that in a new world of threats, we are no longer protected by our own power. And what we saw that morning was a challenge to a new generation.

The history of America is one of tragedy turned into triumph. And so a war over secession became an opportunity to set the captives free. An attack on Pearl Harbor led to a wave of freedom rolling across the Atlantic and Pacific. An Iron Curtain was punctured by democratic values, new institutions at home, and strong international partnerships abroad.

After 9/11, our calling was to write a new chapter in the American story. To devise new strategies and build new alliances, to secure our homeland and safeguard our values, and to serve a just cause abroad. We were ready. Americans were united. Friends around the world stood shoulder to shoulder with us. We had the might and moral-suasion that was the legacy of generations of Americans. The tide of history seemed poised to turn, once again, toward hope.

But then everything changed.

We did not finish the job against al Qaeda in Afghanistan. We did not develop new capabilities to defeat a new enemy, or launch a comprehensive strategy to dry up the terrorists' base of support. We did not reaffirm our basic values, or secure our homeland.

Instead, we got a color-coded politics of fear. Patriotism as the possession of one political party. The diplomacy of refusing to talk to other countries. A rigid 20th century ideology that insisted that the 21st century's stateless terrorism could be defeated through the invasion and occupation of a state. A deliberate strategy to misrepresent 9/11 to sell a war against a country that had nothing to do with 9/11.

And so, a little more than a year after that bright September day, I was in the streets of Chicago again, this time speaking at a rally in opposition to war in Iraq. I did not oppose all wars, I said. I was a strong supporter of the war in Afghanistan. But I said I could not support "a dumb war, a rash war" in Iraq. I worried about a "U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences" in the heart of the Muslim world. I pleaded that we "finish the fight with bin Ladin and al Qaeda."

The political winds were blowing in a different direction. The President was determined to go to war. There was just one obstacle: the U.S. Congress. Nine days after I spoke, that obstacle was removed. Congress rubber-stamped the rush to war, giving the President the broad and open-ended authority he uses to this day. With that vote, Congress became co-author of a catastrophic war. And we went off to fight on the wrong battlefield, with no appreciation of how many enemies we would create, and no plan for how to get out.

Because of a war in Iraq that should never have been authorized and should never have been waged, we are now less safe than we were before 9/11.

According to the National Intelligence Estimate, the threat to our homeland from al Qaeda is “persistent and evolving.” Iraq is a training ground for terror, torn apart by civil war. Afghanistan is more violent than it has been since 2001. Al Qaeda has a sanctuary in Pakistan. Israel is besieged by emboldened enemies, talking openly of its destruction. Iran is now presenting the broadest strategic challenge to the United States in the Middle East in a generation. Groups affiliated with or inspired by al Qaeda operate worldwide. Six years after 9/11, we are again in the midst of a “summer of threat,” with bin Ladin and many more terrorists determined to strike in the United States.

What’s more, in the dark halls of Abu Ghraib and the detention cells of Guantanamo, we have compromised our most precious values. What could have been a call to a generation has become an excuse for unchecked presidential power. A tragedy that united us was turned into a political wedge issue used to divide us.

It is time to turn the page. It is time to write a new chapter in our response to 9/11.

Just because the President misrepresents our enemies does not mean we do not have them. The terrorists are at war with us. The threat is from violent extremists who are a small minority of the world’s 1.3 billion Muslims, but the threat is real. They distort Islam. They kill man, woman and child; Christian and Hindu, Jew and Muslim. They seek to create a repressive caliphate. To defeat this enemy, we must understand who we are fighting against, and what we are fighting for.

The President would have us believe that every bomb in Baghdad is part of al Qaeda’s war against us, not an Iraqi civil war. He elevates al Qaeda in Iraq – which didn’t exist before our invasion – and overlooks the people who hit us on 9/11, who are training new recruits in Pakistan. He lumps together groups with very different goals: al Qaeda and Iran, Shiite militias and Sunni insurgents. He confuses our mission.

And worse – he is fighting the war the terrorists want us to fight. Bin Ladin and his allies know they cannot defeat us on the field of battle or in a genuine battle of ideas. But they can provoke the reaction we’ve seen in Iraq: a misguided invasion of a Muslim country that sparks new insurgencies, ties down our military, busts our budgets, increases the pool of terrorist recruits, alienates America, gives democracy a bad name, and prompts the American people to question our engagement in the world.

By refusing to end the war in Iraq, President Bush is giving the terrorists what they really want, and what the Congress voted to give them in 2002: a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences.

It is time to turn the page. When I am President, we will wage the war that has to be won, with a comprehensive strategy with five elements: getting out of Iraq and on to the right battlefield in Afghanistan and Pakistan; developing the capabilities and partnerships we need to take out the terrorists and the world’s most deadly weapons; engaging the world to dry up support for terror and extremism; restoring our values; and securing a more resilient homeland.

The first step must be getting off the wrong battlefield in Iraq, and taking the fight to the terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

I introduced a plan in January that would have already started bringing our troops out of Iraq, with a goal of removing all combat brigades by March 31, 2008. If the President continues to veto this plan, then ending this war will be my first priority when I take office.

There is no military solution in Iraq. Only Iraq's leaders can settle the grievances at the heart of Iraq's civil war. We must apply pressure on them to act, and our best leverage is reducing our troop presence. And we must also do the hard and sustained diplomatic work in the region on behalf of peace and stability.

In ending the war, we must act with more wisdom than we started it. That is why my plan would maintain sufficient forces in the region to target al Qaeda within Iraq. But we must recognize that al Qaeda is not the primary source of violence in Iraq, and has little support – not from Shia and Kurds who al Qaeda has targeted, or Sunni tribes hostile to foreigners. On the contrary, al Qaeda's appeal within Iraq is enhanced by our troop presence.

Ending the war will help isolate al Qaeda and give Iraqis the incentive and opportunity to take them out. It will also allow us to direct badly needed resources to Afghanistan. Our troops have fought valiantly there, but Iraq has deprived them of the support they need—and deserve. As a result, parts of Afghanistan are falling into the hands of the Taliban, and a mix of terrorism, drugs, and corruption threatens to overwhelm the country.

As President, I would deploy at least two additional brigades to Afghanistan to re-enforce our counter-terrorism operations and support NATO's efforts against the Taliban. As we step up our commitment, our European friends must do the same, and without the burdensome restrictions that have hampered NATO's efforts. We must also put more of an Afghan face on security by improving the training and equipping of the Afghan Army and Police, and including Afghan soldiers in U.S. and NATO operations.

We must not, however, repeat the mistakes of Iraq. The solution in Afghanistan is not just military – it is political and economic. As President, I would increase our non-military aid by \$1 billion. These resources should fund projects at the local level to impact ordinary Afghans, including the development of alternative livelihoods for poppy farmers. And we must seek better performance from the Afghan government, and support that performance through tough anti-corruption safeguards on aid, and increased international support to develop the rule of law across the country.

Above all, I will send a clear message: we will not repeat the mistake of the past, when we turned our back on Afghanistan following Soviet withdrawal. As 9/11 showed us, the security of Afghanistan and America is shared. And today, that security is most threatened by the al Qaeda and Taliban sanctuary in the tribal regions of northwest Pakistan.

Al Qaeda terrorists train, travel, and maintain global communications in this safe-haven. The Taliban pursues a hit and run strategy, striking in Afghanistan, then skulking across the border to safety.

This is the wild frontier of our globalized world. There are wind-swept deserts and cave-dotted mountains. There are tribes that see borders as nothing more than lines on a map, and governments as forces that come and go. There are blood ties deeper than alliances of convenience, and pockets of extremism that follow religion to violence. It's a tough place.

But that is no excuse. There must be no safe-haven for terrorists who threaten America. We cannot fail to act because action is hard.

As President, I would make the hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. military aid to Pakistan conditional, and I would make our conditions clear: Pakistan must make substantial progress in closing down the training camps, evicting foreign fighters, and preventing the Taliban from using Pakistan as a staging area for attacks in Afghanistan.

I understand that President Musharraf has his own challenges. But let me make this clear. There are terrorists holed up in those mountains who murdered 3,000 Americans. They are plotting to strike again. It was a terrible mistake to fail to act when we had a chance to take out an al Qaeda leadership meeting in 2005. If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will.

And Pakistan needs more than F-16s to combat extremism. As the Pakistani government increases investment in secular education to counter radical madrasas, my Administration will increase America's

commitment. We must help Pakistan invest in the provinces along the Afghan border, so that the extremists' program of hate is met with one of hope. And we must not turn a blind eye to elections that are neither free nor fair – our goal is not simply an ally in Pakistan, it is a democratic ally.

Beyond Pakistan, there is a core of terrorists – probably in the tens of thousands – who have made their choice to attack America. So the second step in my strategy will be to build our capacity and our partnerships to track down, capture or kill terrorists around the world, and to deny them the world's most dangerous weapons.

I will not hesitate to use military force to take out terrorists who pose a direct threat to America. This requires a broader set of capabilities, as outlined in the Army and Marine Corps's new counter-insurgency manual. I will ensure that our military becomes more stealth, agile, and lethal in its ability to capture or kill terrorists. We need to recruit, train, and equip our armed forces to better target terrorists, and to help foreign militaries to do the same. This must include a program to bolster our ability to speak different languages, understand different cultures, and coordinate complex missions with our civilian agencies.

To succeed, we must improve our civilian capacity. The finest military in the world is adapting to the challenges of the 21st century. But it cannot counter insurgent and terrorist threats without civilian counterparts who can carry out economic and political reconstruction missions – sometimes in dangerous places. As President, I will strengthen these civilian capacities, recruiting our best and brightest to take on this challenge. I will increase both the numbers and capabilities of our diplomats, development experts, and other civilians who can work alongside our military. We can't just say there is no military solution to these problems. We need to integrate all aspects of American might.

One component of this integrated approach will be new Mobile Development Teams that bring together personnel from the State Department, the Pentagon, and USAID. These teams will work with civil society and local governments to make an immediate impact in peoples' lives, and to turn the tide against extremism. Where people are most vulnerable, where the light of hope has grown dark, and where we are in a position to make a real difference in advancing security and opportunity – that is where these teams will go.

I will also strengthen our intelligence. This is about more than an organizational chart. We need leadership that forces our agencies to share information, and leadership that never – ever – twists the facts to support bad policies. But we must also build our capacity to better collect and analyze information, and to carry out operations to disrupt terrorist plots and break up terrorist networks.

This cannot just be an American mission. Al Qaeda and its allies operate in nearly 100 countries. The United States cannot steal every secret, penetrate every cell, act on every tip, or track down every terrorist – nor should we have to do this alone. This is not just about our security. It is about the common security of all the world.

As President, I will create a Shared Security Partnership Program to forge an international intelligence and law enforcement infrastructure to take down terrorist networks from the remote islands of Indonesia, to the sprawling cities of Africa. This program will provide \$5 billion over three years for counter-terrorism cooperation with countries around the world, including information sharing, funding for training, operations, border security, anti-corruption programs, technology, and targeting terrorist financing. And this effort will focus on helping our partners succeed without repressive tactics, because brutality breeds terror, it does not defeat it.

We must also do more to safeguard the world's most dangerous weapons. We know al Qaeda seeks a nuclear weapon. We know they would not hesitate to use one. Yet there is still about 50 tons of highly enriched uranium, some of it poorly secured, at civilian nuclear facilities in over forty countries. There are still about 15,000 to 16,000 nuclear weapons and stockpiles of uranium and plutonium scattered across 11 time zones in the former Soviet Union.

That is why I worked in the Senate with Dick Lugar to pass a law that would help the United States and our allies detect and stop the smuggling of weapons of mass destruction.

And that is why, as President, I will lead a global effort to secure all nuclear weapons and material at vulnerable sites within four years. While we work to secure existing stockpiles, we should also negotiate a verifiable global ban on the production of new nuclear weapons material.

And I won't hesitate to use the power of American diplomacy to stop countries from obtaining these weapons or sponsoring terror. The lesson of the Bush years is that not talking does not work. Go down the list of countries we've ignored and see how successful that strategy has been. We haven't talked to Iran, and they continue to build their nuclear program. We haven't talked to Syria, and they continue support for terror. We tried not talking to North Korea, and they now have enough material for 6 to 8 more nuclear weapons.

It's time to turn the page on the diplomacy of tough talk and no action. It's time to turn the page on Washington's conventional wisdom that agreement must be reached before you meet, that talking to other countries is some kind of reward, and that Presidents can only meet with people who will tell them what they want to hear.

President Kennedy said it best: "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate." Only by knowing your adversary can you defeat them or drive wedges between them. As President, I will work with our friend and allies, but I won't outsource our diplomacy in Tehran to the Europeans, or our diplomacy in Pyongyang to the Chinese. I will do the careful preparation needed, and let these countries know where America stands. They will no longer have the excuse of American intransigence. They will have our terms: no support for terror and no nuclear weapons.

But America must be about more than taking out terrorists and locking up weapons, or else new terrorists will rise up to take the place of every one we capture or kill. That is why the third step in my strategy will be drying up the rising well of support for extremism.

When you travel to the world's trouble spots as a United States Senator, much of what you see is from a helicopter. So you look out, with the buzz of the rotor in your ear, maybe a door gunner nearby, and you see the refugee camp in Darfur, the flood near Djibouti, the bombed out block in Baghdad. You see thousands of desperate faces.

Al Qaeda's new recruits come from Africa and Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Many come from disaffected communities and disconnected corners of our interconnected world. And it makes you stop and wonder: when those faces look up at an American helicopter, do they feel hope, or do they feel hate?

We know where extremists thrive. In conflict zones that are incubators of resentment and anarchy. In weak states that cannot control their borders or territory, or meet the basic needs of their people. From Africa to central Asia to the Pacific Rim – nearly 60 countries stand on the brink of conflict or collapse. The extremists encourage the exploitation of these hopeless places on their hate-filled websites.

And we know what the extremists say about us. America is just an occupying Army in Muslim lands, the shadow of a shrouded figure standing on a box at Abu Ghraib, the power behind the throne of a repressive leader. They say we are at war with Islam. That is the whispered line of the extremist who has nothing to offer in this battle of ideas but blame – blame America, blame progress, blame Jews. And often he offers something along with the hate. A sense of empowerment. Maybe an education at a madrasa, some charity for your family, some basic services in the neighborhood. And then: a mission and a gun.

We know we are not who they say we are. America is at war with terrorists who killed on our soil. We are not at war with Islam. America is a compassionate nation that wants a better future for all people. The vast majority of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims have no use for bin Ladin or his bankrupt ideas. But too often since 9/11, the extremists have defined us, not the other way around.

When I am President, that will change. We will author our own story.

We do need to stand for democracy. And I will. But democracy is about more than a ballot box. America must show – through deeds as well as words – that we stand with those who seek a better life. That child looking up at the helicopter must see America and feel hope.

As President, I will make it a focus of my foreign policy to roll back the tide of hopelessness that gives rise to hate. Freedom must mean freedom from fear, not the freedom of anarchy. I will never shrug my shoulders and say – as Secretary Rumsfeld did – “Freedom is untidy.” I will focus our support on helping nations build independent judicial systems, honest police forces, and financial systems that are transparent and accountable. Freedom must also mean freedom from want, not freedom lost to an empty stomach. So I will make poverty reduction a key part of helping other nations reduce anarchy.

I will double our annual investments to meet these challenges to \$50 billion by 2012. And I will support a \$2 billion Global Education Fund to counter the radical madrasas – often funded by money from within Saudi Arabia – that have filled young minds with messages of hate. We must work for a world where every child, everywhere, is taught to build and not to destroy. And as we lead we will ask for more from our friends in Europe and Asia as well – more support for our diplomacy, more support for multilateral peacekeeping, and more support to rebuild societies ravaged by conflict.

I will also launch a program of public diplomacy that is a coordinated effort across my Administration, not a small group of political officials at the State Department explaining a misguided war. We will open “America Houses” in cities across the Islamic world, with Internet, libraries, English lessons, stories of America’s Muslims and the strength they add to our country, and vocational programs. Through a new “America’s Voice Corps” we will recruit, train, and send out into the field talented young Americans who can speak with – and listen to – the people who today hear about us only from our enemies.

As President, I will lead this effort. In the first 100 days of my Administration, I will travel to a major Islamic forum and deliver an address to redefine our struggle. I will make clear that we are not at war with Islam, that we will stand with those who are willing to stand up for their future, and that we need their effort to defeat the prophets of hate and violence. I will speak directly to that child who looks up at that helicopter, and my message will be clear: “You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now.”

This brings me to the fourth step in my strategy: I will make clear that the days of compromising our values are over.

Major General Paul Eaton had a long and distinguished career serving this country. It included training the Iraqi Army. After Abu Ghraib, his senior Iraqi advisor came into his office and said: “You have no idea how this will play out on the streets of Baghdad and the rest of the Arab world. How can this be?” This was not the America he had looked up to.

As the counter-insurgency manual reminds us, we cannot win a war unless we maintain the high ground and keep the people on our side. But because the Administration decided to take the low road, our troops have more enemies. Because the Administration cast aside international norms that reflect American values, we are less able to promote our values. When I am President, America will reject torture without exception. America is the country that stood against that kind of behavior, and we will do so again.

I also will reject a legal framework that does not work. There has been only one conviction at Guantanamo. It was for a guilty plea on material support for terrorism. The sentence was 9 months. There has not been one conviction of a terrorist act. I have faith in America’s courts, and I have faith in our JAGs. As President, I will close Guantanamo, reject the Military Commissions Act, and adhere to the Geneva Conventions. Our Constitution and our Uniform Code of Military Justice provide a framework for dealing with the terrorists. This Administration also puts forward a false choice between the liberties we cherish and the security we demand. I will provide our intelligence and law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to track and take out the terrorists without undermining our Constitution and our freedom.

That means no more illegal wire-tapping of American citizens. No more national security letters to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime. No more tracking citizens who do nothing more than protest a misguided war. No more ignoring the law when it is inconvenient. That is not who we are. And it is not what is necessary to defeat the terrorists. The FISA court works. The separation of powers works. Our Constitution works. We will again set an example for the world that the law is not subject to the whims of stubborn rulers, and that justice is not arbitrary.

This Administration acts like violating civil liberties is the way to enhance our security. It is not. There are no short-cuts to protecting America, and that is why the fifth part of my strategy is doing the hard and patient work to secure a more resilient homeland.

Too often this Administration's approach to homeland security has been to scatter money around and avoid hard choices, or to scare Americans without telling them what to be scared of, or what to do. A Department set up to make Americans feel safer didn't even show up when bodies drifted through the streets in New Orleans. That's not acceptable.

My Administration will take an approach to homeland security guided by risk. I will establish a Quadrennial Review at the Department of Homeland Security – just like at the Pentagon – to undertake a top to bottom review of the threats we face and our ability to confront them. And I will develop a comprehensive National Infrastructure Protection Plan that draws on both local know-how and national priorities.

We have to put resources where our infrastructure is most vulnerable. That means tough and permanent standards for securing our chemical plants. Improving our capability to screen cargo and investing in safeguards that will prevent the disruption of our ports. And making sure our energy sector – our refineries and pipelines and power grids – is protected so that terrorists cannot cripple our economy.

We also have to get past a top-down approach. Folks across America are the ones on the front lines. On 9/11, it was citizens – empowered by their knowledge of the World Trade Center attacks – who protected our government by heroically taking action on Flight 93 to keep it from reaching our nation's capital. When I have information that can empower Americans, I will share it with them.

Information sharing with state and local governments must be a two-way street, because we never know where the two pieces of the puzzle are that might fit together – the tip from Afghanistan, and the cop who sees something suspicious on Michigan Avenue. I will increase funding to help train police to gather information and connect it to the intelligence they receive from the federal government. I will address the problem in our prisons, where the most disaffected and disconnected Americans are being explicitly targeted for conversion by al Qaeda and its ideological allies.

And my Administration will not permit more lives to be lost because emergency responders are not outfitted with the communications capability and protective equipment their job requires, or because the federal government is too slow to respond when disaster strikes. We've been through that on 9/11. We've been through it during Katrina. I will ensure that we have the resources and competent federal leadership we need to support our communities when American lives are at stake.

But this effort can't just be about what we ask of our men and women in uniform. It can't just be about how we spend our time or our money.

It's about the kind of country we are.

We are in the early stages of a long struggle. Yet since 9/11, we've heard a lot about what America can't do or shouldn't do or won't even try. We can't vote against a misguided war in Iraq because that would make us look weak, or talk to other countries because that would be a reward. We can't reach out to the hundreds of millions of Muslims who reject terror because we worry they hate us. We can't protect the homeland because there are too many targets, or secure our people while staying true to our values. We can't get past the America of Red and Blue, the politics of who's up and who's down.

That is not the America that I know.

The America I know is the last, best hope for that child looking up at a helicopter. It's the country that put a man on the moon; that defeated fascism and helped rebuild Europe. It's a country whose strength abroad is measured not just by armies, but rather by the power of our ideals, and by our purpose to forge an ever more perfect union at home.

That's the America I know. We just have to act like it again to write that next chapter in the American story. If we do, we can keep America safe while extending security and opportunity around the world. We can hold true to our values, and in doing so advance those values abroad. And we can be what that

child looking up at a helicopter needs us to be: the relentless opponent of terror and tyranny, and the light of hope to the world.

To make this story reality, it's going to take Americans coming together and changing the fundamental direction of this country. It's going to take the service of a new generation of young people. It's going to take facing tragedy head-on and turning it into the next generation's triumph. That is a challenge that I welcome. Because when we do make that change, we'll do more than win a war - we'll live up to that calling to make America, and the world, safer, freer, and more hopeful than we found it.

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Obama creates big question for anti-war supporters (2007-08-01 13:49)

Pakistan reacts to Obama warning (2007-08-02 07:31)

Pakistan reacted today to Barack Obama's speech when he indicated he might launch military strikes if Islamabad failed to take appropriate action on terrorist intelligence reports. Obama's statements could be interpreted as meaning that he would strike unilaterally in violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. Here is the relevant paragraph:

I understand that President Musharraf has his own challenges. But let me make this clear. There are terrorists holed up in those mountains who murdered 3,000 Americans. They are plotting to strike again. It was a terrible mistake to fail to act when we had a chance to take out an al Qaeda leadership meeting in 2005. If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will.

And here is a Times of India article describing Pakistan's reaction to the Obama speech.

Pakistan slams Obama's 'ignorant' attack warning 2 Aug 2007, 1631 hrs IST,AFP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan accused Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama of "sheer ignorance" on Thursday for threatening to launch US military strikes against Al-Qaida on Pakistani soil.

Obama warned on Wednesday that if he is elected president, he would order US forces to hit extremist targets on Pakistan's frontier with Afghanistan if embattled military ruler President Pervez Musharraf failed to act.

"Such statements are being made out of sheer ignorance," Pakistan's Minister of State for Information, Tariq Azeem, said.

"They are not fully apprised about the ground realities and not aware of the efforts by Pakistan."

Islamabad has bristled against a string of similar threats in recent weeks by the administration of US

President George W. Bush, whose top counter-terror official in July refused to rule out US strikes in Pakistan.

Musharraf, struggling to contain a wave of Islamist violence unleashed by the army's bloody storming of the radical Red Mosque in Islamabad three weeks ago, last week firmly rejected any US action.

"We have said before that we will not allow anyone to infringe our sovereignty," Azeem said.

"If there is any actionable intelligence they should tell us, and only our forces will take action on it and they are quite capable of it."

The Minister suggested that Obama's comments were prompted by Washington's inability to curb the ongoing Taliban insurgency in neighbouring Afghanistan, where US-led forces toppled the hardline regime in late 2001.

"This seems to be a reaction to their own failure in Afghanistan to control the US casualties and instead of addressing the situation there, they are finding scapegoats and damaging their own cause," Azeem added.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam on Wednesday warned against "point-scoring" by US presidential candidates on vital security issues.

Musharraf abandoned Islamabad's support for the Taliban in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

He has said that a top US official warned that Pakistan would be bombed back to the "stone age" if it failed to join Washington's "war on terror".

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'To the right, to the right,' Obama ditching progressives? (2007-08-02 12:03)

Salim Muwakkil has a thought-provoking article on alternet.com that suggests Barack Obama is being molded into a traditional "centrist" politician by his handlers and advisers:

Somehow, though, the magic has gone missing. The cut-and-parse, political calibrations employed by Obama's campaign staff have devalued enchantment and put a premium on marketing. His political masterminds have transformed Obama from a political visionary into an electoral product (with demographically designed components) just like every other presidential aspirant. His handlers have excised the very quality that distinguished Obama from the usual suspects... [Paul] Street has been a consistent critic of the Obama phenomenon, but many of us who know the candidate begged to differ. We argued he was a true progressive who would use his extraordinary time in the limelight to speak unpopular truths about U.S. foreign and domestic policy while unflinchingly reminding the nation of its racial obligations. That prospect was the magic ingredient in Obama mania. His strategists are busy squandering it.

– The Squandering of Obama

Thomas Edsall of the Huffington Post suggests Obama's recent pronouncements suggesting an interventionist approach with U.S. ally Pakistan might represent Obama's "Sister Souljah moment." The reference is to Bill Clinton's break with the progressive base of the party toward the "center" when he confronted Jesse Jackson during the 1992 campaign.

According to Edsall, Chris Bowers and others, Obama has gradually adopted stands that represent a shift to the right from his perceived positions. For example, his statements in May on race-based affirmative action, which seem starkly at odds with what he has said and written about in the past.

Obama's speech and his recent foreign policy article, where he says he might attack North Korea or Iran to stop WMD efforts (sound familiar?) got me thinking about accusations that he supported Israel's misbegotten invasion of Lebanon.

The actual evidence doesn't point to his "support" of the invasion, but at the same time he failed to oppose the war in the same way he opposed the Iraq War.

If Obama is indeed moving to right under the guidance of his advisers, or on his own initiative, it might be a poll-driven shift. Maybe one of the things about George W. Bush worth admiring is his tendency not take commercial opinion polls too seriously.

I'm reminded of what I would call a Kerry moment, when John Kerry, under the advice of John Edwards, decided to take a hawkish stance on Iraq in his contest with W.

Democrats just can't match up with the Republicans when they frame the debate in terms of hawkish issues. Maybe it won't matter that much this time around as the Republicans are in such disarray, but why take the chance?

Of course, Obama's stand on foreign policy issues will continue to become clearer as we near the election. And if it happens that he as hawkish as some suggest, to whom do those who believe in another way flee?

And how likely is Obama to beat Hillary on her own turf?

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Pakistan Foreign Minister weighs in on Obama speech (2007-08-03 10:15)

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khusheed Kasuri today commented on Obama's speech, which apparently warned of unilateral action against terrorists in his country.

"It's a very irresponsible statement, that's all I can say," he said in a television interview. "As the election campaign in America is heating up we would not like American candidates to fight their elections and contest elections at our expense."

There has been no clarification of Obama's stance and indeed the campaign has reiterated their statements in an email broadcast to supporters yesterday.

It's hard to argue now with those asserting that Obama is building up a clear policy of foreign intervention, based on the idea of "U.S. interests." To his statements on Pakistan, one must add his comments that he would consider unilateral military intervention to stop nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea made in the journal *Foreign Affairs*.

Even if this is just posturing it threatens to tear down bridges made with moderate elements in the Muslim world. Together with Tom Tancredo's statements about nuking the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, it can only fortify perceptions of American arrogance and "manifest destiny," even though Obama yesterday swore off using nukes against terrorist targets much less holy sites .

Al-Qaeda and Taliban recruiting only goes up when they can broadcast media reports of this type of U.S. military interventionist thinking without respect to borders or international law.

Realize that the situation in Pakistan is very tenuous. Al Qaeda and the Taliban are not simply confined to the border areas with Afghanistan. The most recent evidence of this was the mosque standoff right in the capital of the country, indeed within walking range of President Pervez Musharraf's own office. There have been two nearly successful assassination attempts on Musharraf's life.

Unfortunately, it's much harder to see now the "clash of civilizations" ending any time soon regardless of what administration comes to office unless Dennis Kucinich, Ron Paul or Ralph Nader can pull off an election miracle.

The thing is with the exception to those two intervention caveats, Obama's foreign policy speech and *Foreign Affairs*

article, would tend to agree with the idealistic vision of the author of "Dreams from My Father."

Many of us hoped that the son of a Kenyan Muslim father, partially raised by an Indonesian Muslim stepfather, both of whom were secular and non-religious, would be able to span the lacuna created by extremists in both the East and West.

But those two caveats are like elephants that can't be ignored. They swallow up the rest of what Obama has stated and make it impossible for advocates of peace to truly know where he's coming from. And I'm not just talking about absolute pacifists. Even those who agree with the use of military force for purposes of national defense, meeting defense treaty obligations or combating international terrorism, have to be worried about such openly interventionist statements.

Even conservatives talk eloquently about peace. But it's often those little caveats that they later use to build a case for war.

Obama must clarify his position on international law and the sovereignty of nations.

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Bush assures Musharraf over Obama warnings (2007-08-03 21:21)

In a rather curious turn of events, George W. Bush has seemingly taken the role of moderate by reassuring Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf over Barack Obama's warnings of a unilateral attack.

According to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, Bush called Musharraf today for the nation's independence celebrations and reassured him that the U.S. would respect Pakistan's sovereignty. There was some disagreement between Islamabad and Washington though over the exact words conveyed by Bush.

Reacting to Obama's comments, Pakistan's Prime Minister

Shaukat Aziz said:

"Such statements are unacceptable to Pakistan and we will not tolerate any interference of the sort from any quarter." During the day, hundreds of people demonstrated in Pakistan burning the American flag and chanting slogans against Obama and Tom Tancredo, who repeated threats to bomb the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The Obama campaign though sent out a memo by foreign policy adviser Samantha Power basically repeating the vague threat without specifically addressing the question of Pakistan's sovereignty. There has been no response to the reaction of Pakistan's government.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama appears to be fighting hard to get to the right of the other Democratic frontrunners in what I have described as his Kerry moment.

Chaudhuri on Obama's move to the right (2007-08-04 20:11)

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri of the Hindustan Times has some interesting comments on what I'm calling the Kerry moment of the Democratic presidential campaign.

Chaudhuri believes Obama's speech advocating unilateral action in Pakistan is the beginning of a new phase among Democratic frontrunners when they go beyond simply suggesting withdrawing from Iraq, the "wrong war," but start suggesting instead new battlefields for the "right war."

It is important for Obama to lead this shift because the other candidates do not want him to take the spotlight as the viable candidate who opposed the Iraq War from the start. Now that he is fighting for the strongest position on the right, the other Democratic frontrunners have shown no hesitation in joining a game they truly believe in anyway.

Obama made this move, according to Chaudhuri, because of polls which have consistently shown Hillary Clinton ahead. His campaign apparently believes this is primarily because Obama is seen as weaker and/or less experienced than Clinton.

The Democrats look likely to be drawn into another "cowboy" contest with the Republicans as happened in the Kerry campaign, with the Iraq War now a secondary consideration.

Unlike the Republicans who play to their base, Democrats look like they will again desert their own base to take a center right position.

Note that by the time the next president takes office, only one other Democrat has been elected chief executive in the last 28 years – Bill Clinton who "pioneered" the idea that the Democratic base was too far to the "left."

Interestingly also, the Bush administration and at least one Republican frontrunner have come out openly slamming Obama's warnings, and attempting to appear more moderate.

"We consider him (President Musharraf) as a major partner. We have good relations with him and we respect the sovereignty of Pakistan," Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicolas Burns

said today. Republican candidate Mitt Romney has also spoken out against Obama's statements calling for greater cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



ConsiderThis (2007-08-05 00:39:00)

When it comes down to the truth of the matter, Barack is right about his view concerning Pakistan. He was right about his view concerning The U.S. staying out of Iraq. If you just flip the script and say suppose a some like Bin Ladden ordered and help aided in carrying out destruction in Pakistan on the scale that the United States recieved on 9/11/01 and then took up residence in the mountains of Nevada and the U.S. did not turn him over, was not doing enough to turn him over and was unwilling to get the proper help to turn him over to the proper authorities, what would that make America look like? You do'nt have to answer that but it is what Pakistan is probally doing all we need to know is whether he is truly in Pakistan and then we need to make

the correct decision on how to apprehend him after diplomacy has taken its course and war being on the table as our last option. We as a nation should take that right, after all it's the "American Way".

Beating world poverty (2007-08-09 17:07)

Leaders from Africa and Asia met in Langkawi, Malaysia this week for the Smart Partnership International Dialogue aimed at reducing poverty in both regions.

I've always thought the main problem in developing world poverty is found in the colonial mentality still cemented in the minds of the developing world's people.

Interestingly enough, the non-Western nations that have succeeded economically in our times are mostly those who had not suffered Western colonization.

Japan, of course, is the biggest example. Of the Asian tigers, we have China, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand all who avoided the experience of Western colonization. Only Malaysia among the current tigers was colonized.

But Malaysia had the stalwart Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, a man often reviled by neighbors because of his anti-Western rants. If you compare what Malaysia has done to tackle poverty in the country during Mahathir's reign, and it compare to the other boot-licking countries in the region, and you can see the results of a proper mindset.

Malaysia went from a 50 percent poverty rate in 1970 to 15 percent in 1990 and 5.5 percent in 2000.

The problem with most developing countries is that they are waiting to be saved by the West. They're waiting for Western aid, waiting for Western private investment, waiting for the West to tell them what to do.

Vietnam may be ready to emulate Malaysia's performance, but possibly again because of the difference of its experience. After the Vietnam War, the country was forced to make it on its own without Western help. It took the tough mindset of the war and applied it to building up the country.

Be that as it may, whatever the attitude of the people, there are some things that can help in addressing the problems of poverty.

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More Pakistani reaction to Obama's American "exceptionalism" (2007-08-15 08:12)

"Any transgression of the accepted parameters would be unacceptable and would damage the interests between the two countries," Tasnim Aslam, the Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman, was quoted as saying at a briefing in Islamabad. On Monday, Pakistani protesters shouted slogans against Obama outside a Chicago fundraiser organized by South Asian backers.

I still stand bewildered. But maybe the clues were there all along. I was willing to give Obama the benefit of the doubt for some statements made to the press in the past. After all, politicians have many comments on the record that they

make on the fly. Sometimes they say things that don't really reflect their stands on issues or that can be interpreted in such a way.

Now the article in Foreign Affairs was another matter but it was vaguely worded. It mentions intervention to stop some forms of nuclear proliferation involving North Korea and Iran but without specifics. Would it be a UN sanctioned action? Would these countries be transferring nuclear weapons to organizations internationally recognized as terrorist?

The Pakistan statements were crystal clear though and reiterated afterward by the campaign.

Sorry to say, but Obama's foreign policy doesn't look much different than the Bush Doctrine now. There's the idea there that America is exceptional in that it doesn't have to abide by the same rules that it expects other nations to follow. That won't work in today's world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



David (2007-08-17 11:17:00)

"I still stand bewildered. But maybe the clues were there all along. I was willing to give Obama the benefit of the doubt for some statements made to the press in the past. After all, politicians have many comments on the record that they make on the fly. Sometimes they say things that don't really reflect their stands on issues or that can be interpreted in such a way."

Have you been watching too much Fox news lately? Be specific about which comments your talking about. Are they the ones about talking to opposing foreign leaders? Or the ones about not using nuclear weapons? Which ones?

"Now the article in Foreign Affairs was another matter but it was vaguely worded. It mentions intervention to stop some forms of nuclear proliferation involving North Korea and Iran but without specifics. Would it be a UN sanctioned action?"

Did you not watch the CNN debates? Obama supports UN sanctioned actions.

"Sorry to say, but Obama's foreign policy doesn't look much different than the Bush Doctrine now. There's the idea there that America is exceptional in that it doesn't have to abide by the same rules that it expects other nations to follow. That won't work in today's world."

Please log into youtube and watch lovingj1's videos. In one of them you see Hillary saying the same thing about taking out terrorist forces if the Pakistan government refuses to.

Your not looking at the big picture here. You need to step back for a few seconds and try to look at the big picture with an objective point of view. I know you feel offended with the recent Pakistan comments but please look beyond the words.

Bill Clinton was the one that didn't take out the terrorist when he had a chance. Are you suggesting this was a good move by him?

How can you even compare Bush with Obama...

So who do you support now? Clinton? Edwards? Romney?

"O" Factor, debates, hip-hop and Obama (2007-08-18 18:51)

Latest news headlines:

Oprah's influence on Obama campaign:

"In America, it is known simply as the "O" Factor. As the reigning talk-show queen, trusted arbiter of taste and general adviser on everyday life, Oprah Winfrey has persuaded millions of devoted viewers to buy everything from bras to books.

"Now the world's richest black person is aiming to transfer her Midas touch to the world of politics, as she tries to market Barack Obama as the first black American president."

* Barack opts out of debates:

Enough's Enough: Obama Will Limit Forum/Debate..

Enough's Enough: Obama Will Limit Forum/Debate Participation
Enough's Enough: Obama Will Limit Forum/Debate Participation
18 Aug 2007 10: Barack Obama's campaign manager has put his foot down: Obama won't attend any more debates that aren't ... Plouffe writes that Obama has already spoken at 19 different candidate forums and has participated

Hip-hoppers are plugging Barack Obama in their songs:

Barack Obama gets name-dropped in hip-hop

WASHINGTON (CNN) – Vibe magazine has dubbed him "B-Rock." He's getting shout-outs in some of the most popular hip-hop singles of the summer. He's even had a high-profile meeting with Ludacris.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-08-18 18:51)

Latest news headlines:

Oprah's influence on Obama campaign:

"In America, it is known simply as the "O" Factor. As the reigning talk-show queen, trusted arbiter of taste and general adviser on everyday life, Oprah Winfrey has persuaded millions of devoted viewers to buy everything from bras to books.

"Now the world's richest black person is aiming to transfer her Midas touch to the world of politics, as she tries to market Barack Obama as the first black American president."

(2007-08-19 18:49)

Barack is preparing a veteran's speech for this week.

Obama previews veterans speech

by John McCormick Previewing a speech he is expected to give Tuesday, presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama told military veterans on a conference call Sunday evening During the conference call, Obama said he would continue to call for a refocusing of the nation's

Posted in The Swamp The Obama family was spotted riding bumper cars in Iowa:



Photo: Reuters

More on **Barack Obama** and the Bumper Cars

Barack Obama, wisely arriving after the sun went down one night last week, actually did. He brought the whole family — wife Michelle, 9-year-old Malia and 5-year-old Sasha.

[EMBED]

Obama supporter Sharon Mahlerio, a Des Moines attorney, speaks for the candidate during Iowa debate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama News: Afrobella, black voters, butter statue (2007-08-20 11:19)

Michelle Obama was chose "Afrobella of the Week" on this website which extols the candidate's wife:

Michelle Obama: Afrobella of the Week

While I certainly have my own political leanings, my goal with this post isn't to sway anyone ... , so Barack Obama piqued my interest early on. I think the senator is a charming and fascinating enough ... she wears her hair. 1. Because she keeps it real.

Is Barack the candidate that black voters have been waiting for? This essay says no:

Why **Obama** Is not the Black Dream Candidate?

Signal, CA - Aug 18, 2007

As opposed to Spike Lee hosting a high-moneyed **fundraiser** for the senator, it was David Geffen. Such "breaches" have bred skepticism...

Obama's like butter:

Obama butter sculpture

Former Iowa State Fair butter sculptor Duffy Lyon has endorsed Barack Obama through a butter sculpture of his campaign logo ...

Obama butter statue



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Patrick Murphy gives support to Obama (2007-08-21 19:21)

Democratic House Representative Patrick Murphy announced that he is backing Barack Obama's candidacy.

Penn. Rep. Patrick Murphy **endorses Obama** for president

WQAD, IL - 6 hours ago

AP - August 21, 2007 1:04 PM ET PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Pennsylvania Congressman Patrick Murphy has **endorsed** Democratic presidential candidate Barack **Obama** ...

Barack also called for easing of travel restrictions to Cuba:

Obama calls for lifting US-Cuba family travel limits restrictions

Sun-Sentinel.com, FL - 10 hours ago

Obama will speak at a **fundraiser** for the chapter Saturday at the Miami-Dade Auditorium...



Obama says Bush's Cuba policy 'strategically blundering'

CNN International - 1 hour ago

Obama will speak at a **fundraiser** for the chapter Saturday at the Miami-Dade Auditorium, the same Little Havana site where Ronald Reagan won over many in the ...

Is the early state strategy a wise plan? Do Iowa and New Hampshire act as racial barriers guarding the gates for "good old boy" types?

Seems like not much attention is given to South Carolina and Nevada. The latter state in particular is much closer to the overall U.S. demographic.

The early states may be important if candidate's seem them as important. Those candidates who don't choose to be taken in by results in early states have gone on to win including the last two presidents to win open elections – Bill Clinton and George W. Bush – each losing both states in their first presidential runs. They were able to recover though and win.

However, if the candidate and supporters collapse after losing one or both of these states, if they collapse internally, then of course one has to look at them as important.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama on Daily Show (2007-08-22 15:55)

Barack Obama will appear on the Daily Show tonight. The news first appeared on the campaign's Twitter account.



Obama visits Stewart tonight

Boston Globe, United States - 2 hours ago

You've heard, perhaps, of the "Russert Primary," where candidates for office are subjected to a thorough grilling by tenacious NBC newsman Tim Russert on ...

Is Obama gaining ground on all sides of the political spectrum? David Ignatius thinks so:

Obama is beating... rivals on the left and right

Daily Star - Lebanon, Lebanon - 2 hours ago

By David Ignatius Senator Barack Obama is getting polite applause...

I

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama gets support from sole Iraq combat veteran in Congress (2007-08-22 22:20)

The Obama campaign got a step up on their opponents when the Iraq War combat veteran in Congress endorsed Barack over the other candidates.

Iraq War Vet in Congress Backs **Obama** over Hil by Michael Saul, NY ...

The only combat veteran from the war in Iraq serving in Congress endorsed **Barack Obama** yesterday, a major coup for the Illinois senator as he seeks to persuade voters he's best equipped...

When Barack rolled into Hillary's turf in Brooklyn, NY, elected officials of Caribbean descent were conspicuous by their absence:

Caribbean leaders missing in action From **Obama** Brooklyn Stump

Hardbeatnews.com, NY - 58 minutes ago

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, who recently **endorse Obama's** rival, Senator Hillary Clinton...



Presidential Hopeful, Senator Barack Obama, greets fans during Brooklyn stump, August 22, 2007. (Hayden Roger Celestin Image, <http://www.hardbeatnews.com/>)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama announces NY endorsements, launches Generation Obama (2007-08-23 18:53)

Barack Obama announced a long list of New York supporters during his Brooklyn fundraiser raising a challenge to Hillary Clinton on her own turf.

The list of endorsements includes: Senator Eric Adams (D-Brooklyn); Assemblyman Michael Benjamin (D-Bronx); Suffolk County Legislator Jon Cooper (D-Suffolk County); City Councilwoman Helen Diane Foster (D-Bronx); Rev. Wendell Foster (Christ Church, Bronx); Rev. Clinton M. Miller (Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Brooklyn); Senator Kevin Parker (D-Brooklyn); Senator Bill Perkins (D-Manhattan); City Councilman James Sanders, Jr. (D-Queens); City Councilman Al Vann (D-Brooklyn), Assemblyman Karim Camara (D-Brooklyn), Suffolk County Legislator Elie Mystal (D-Suffolk County), Senator John L. Sampson (D-Brooklyn), and Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher (D-Suffolk County).

About 300 people attended the fundraising event. The Obama campaign stressed the role of Camp Obama graduates in organizing grassroots support for the Illinois senator.

Obama for America is also launching the Generation Obama campaign aimed at turning out record numbers of young voters to support the candidate. Several chapters will start up in cities across the country this weekend:

Barack **Obama**: **Obama** Campaign unleashes Generation **Obama**

All American Patriots (press release), Sweden - 13 hours ago

"**Obama's** youth support is thriving and Generation **Obama** will help turn interest and support into organizing action. GO chapters are a clear indication that ...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wins two surveys (2007-08-23 22:53)

Barack Obama won the Spartan Internet Political Performance poll beating out Republican poll and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

Barack Obama heads Presidential Election Internet Performance Index

Currently maintaining the top three positions are **Barack Obama** 21.29 percent, Ron Paul 11.51 percent and Hillary Clinton 11.36 percent...

Barack also won a poll conducted by a major Washington state labor union coming ahead of Hillary Clinton and John Edwards, the latter landing hard in third place.

Obama First Choice In WFSE Presidential Survey

The Washington Federation of State Employees, one of the larger Labor organizations in Washington State, ... Federation of State Employees Barack Obama 21.3 % Hillary Clinton 15.6 % John Edwards...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama and Indian Country, Brzezinski endorsement (2007-08-24 14:51)

A Cherokee Nation attorney examines Barack Obama's policy toward Indian Country:

Obama and India Country - Tulsa ...

Native Times allegations of **Barack Obama** not factual Tulsa Native American Times, OK - 1 hour ago I need not tell you that the stakes in the 2008 Presidential election could not be higher – for America and for Indian Country.

Obama also snagged an important endorsement from Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to Jimmy Carter.

Brzezinski Endorses Barack Obama

Bloomberg reports that Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former chief foreign policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, endorsed Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois) for president. Obama “recognizes that the challenge is a new face...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-08-24 14:51)

Zbigniew Brzezinski Endorses Barack Obama

Bloomberg reports that Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former chief foreign policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, endorsed Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois) for president.

More on Obama as community organizer (2007-08-26 14:45)

U.S. News & World Report has an article that further explores Barack Obama's roots as a community organizer, an usual starting-place for a viable presidential candidate.



As a community organizer, **Obama** was a pragmatic leader

U.S. News & World Report, DC - 5 hours ago

By Kenneth T. Walsh CHICAGO—Far from the centers of power and privilege that have spawned so many commanders in chief,

Barack also revealed a list of Republicans that he would willing to work with if elected:

Obama names Republicans he will bring to the table

KTEN, TX - 3 hours ago

AP - August 26, 2007 2:25 PM ET KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama often says he will be a candidate that will bring...

[EMBED]

Former Carter national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski discusses his support of Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wants FEMA separate from Homeland Security (2007-08-27 18:58)

Barack Obama wants the Federal Emergency Management Agency separated from Homeland Security.

Obama: Break off FEMA from Homeland Security

Post Chronicle - 5 hours ago

by Staff US Sen. Barack Obama, a 2008 Democratic presidential contender, says the main federal agency for responding to disasters should be independent...

Oprah's bash for Barack is expected to push the limits on extravagance with guests like George Clooney, Halle Berry, Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg expected to attend.

OPRAH: In The Secret Garden with Barack Obama

The BV Entertainment Newswire Blog, NY - 4 hours ago

By Karu F. Daniels, AOL Black Voices Just about everyone knows that no one does up an extravagant affair the way Oprah Winfrey does...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama picks up VA support, leads in mobile campaign (2007-08-28 21:29)

Barack Obama picked up an important Virginia endorsement today when former governor and current Richmond mayor Doug Wilder pledged his support to the candidate today.

Barack's campaign is reportedly doing well with its mobile campaign. Jupiter Research analyst Julie Ask wrote, "Barack Obama is the clear leader among his peers in terms of leveraging the cellphone for his campaign."

Obama campaign leads SMS race

Distributive Networks has launched the latest version of its mobile messaging platform, which is being leveraged successfully by US Presidential hopeful Senator Obama to provide ... of Obama Mobile, supporters from every state in the union had participated via their mobile devices...

Posted in SMS Text News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Yarmulkes for Obama, Calypso King endorses (2007-08-30 09:05)

Jewish supporters of Barack Obama are selling yarmulkes emblazoned with "Obama '08":

Only Obama between his supporters and heaven

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, NY - 9 hours ago

Jewish supporters of the presidential bid of Sen. Barack Obama (D-III.) are selling "Obama '08" yarmulkes to raise funds...

Calypso music's The Mighty Sparrow endorsed Barack saying if Americans want respect they should vote for Obama.

Calypso King Of The World give nod to **Obama**

Hardbeatnews.com, NY - 10 hours ago

Hardbeatnews, BROOKLYN , NY , Thurs. Aug. 30, 2007: Grenadian-born national, The Mighty Sparrow, is among the latest crop of Barack Obama supporters...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Open letter to Obama; Barack leads Wikipedia race (2007-08-31 13:49)

Mil Sylvan has written a blog on barackobama.com expressing his view that Barack has to get tough and project an image of a take-charge person, an action person, because that's what Americans like to see in their presidential candidates.

Open Letter to Senator **Barack Obama**

Open Letter to Senator **Barack Obama** Barack Obama is terrific candidate for the presidency. He has all the credentials, the charm and the tools needed to win this election. But my gut tells me, he will not win the nomination unless

Barack is leading in Wikipedia readership with 41,007 readers compared to Hillary's 18,555.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama targets youth, faithful (2007-08-31 16:19)

The Obama campaign continues its strategy of reaching out to, and activating young voters:

Obama's youth registration drive

The State, SC - 57 minutes ago

COLUMBIA, SC - Beginning tomorrow, Barack Obama's South Carolina campaign will launch a week-long effort to register 1000 new voters on college and...

Barack Obama also continues to talk about faith on his campaign. He's embarking on a 10-day "faith tour" across Iowa. The strategy may backfire among people, including many religious people, who don't feel comfortable with a president or presidential candidate who is too immersed in religion. Two presidents famous for claiming to have 'talked to God' are William McKinley, the Manifest Destiny, president and George W.(MD) Bush.

Obama to host faith forum in Iowa City

Iowa City Press Citizen, IA - 5 hours ago

By the Press-Citizen Sen. Barack Obama will be in Iowa City Friday, Sept. 7, as part of a 10-day faith tour throughout Iowa...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



1.9 September

Obama gets Iowa endorsement, Chicago money (2007-09-02 11:00)

Iowa Sen. Steve Warnstadt, D-Sioux City endorsed Barack Obama who is campaigning hard in that state.

"America is facing a lot of division, and I think (Obama) has unique skills to bring people together," Warnstadt said. Barack has been doing a good job at winning corporate donations in his home state. Even Republicans adverse to new taxes are supporting the senator.

Obama Winning "Hearts And Wallets" Of Corporate...

The typical Midwestern business leader is a rock-ribbed Republican who favors socially moderate policies but strongly opposes more regulation and higher taxes. That makes it somewhat of a surprise that Barack

Obama...

Here's a funny video from Mike Gravel's campaign:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack vs. Hillary (2007-09-02 18:49)

"People who like Barack Obama really like Barack Obama":

Obama phenomenon

Vail Daily News, CO - 9 hours ago

This is not an endorsement or a prediction, just an observation. People who like Barack Obama really like Barack Obama

Here's another funny YouTube video featuring Hillary and Barack:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Iran next? (2007-09-03 22:17)

A recent op-ed piece in the New York Daily News has a number of blogs buzzing over whether Barack Obama's intents with regard to Iran.

The decision to wage a misguided war in Iraq has substantially strengthened Iran, which now poses the greatest strategic challenge to U.S. interests in the Middle East in a generation. Iran supports violent groups and sectarian politics in Iraq, fuels terror and extremism across the Middle East and continues to make progress on its nuclear program in defiance of the international community. Meanwhile, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has declared that Israel must be "wiped off the map."

Now let it be known that even W. was not promising war during his first election campaign.

Clearly all the Democratic front-runners are developing strong interventionist positions regardless of whether they say they will pull out of Iraq or not.

What kind of pressure can be applied on Iran that hasn't been used in the decades since the hostage crisis? Obviously the only way to escalate things further is by some type of military action.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Hoping for Obama on Pakistan (2007-09-04 07:57)

Here's an interesting, in-depth analysis of Barack Obama's Pakistan position by a Pakistani intern at the Woodrow Wilson Center and Brookings Institution. You may remember this is the same place that Barack gave his speech in which he stated he would unilaterally attack Pakistan on "actionable intelligence" on the whereabouts al-Qaeda leadership.

Obama and Pakistan: Let's Hope for the Best

The author, Haider Mullick, tries to give a positive spin on the issue.

Black Women for Obama A new organization, Black Women for Obama, has announced its formation through a press release.

The group states that it has opened chapters in "Georgia, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas and Indiana, and are actively recruiting members to form state chapters in the remaining first primary states - New Hampshire, Iowa, Florida, and Nevada."

I checked the organization's website but could not determine whether they were an independent campaign group, commonly known as a "527" or not. Most of the links at the site returned error messages.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2007-09-04 07:57)

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Obama and Pakistan: Let's Hope for the Best

The author, Haider Mullick, tries to give a positive spin on the issue.

(2007-09-04 17:30)

Nicole Belle over at crooksandliars.com says about Barack's recent op-ed on pressuring Iran:

He even justifies the threat by citing Ahmadinejad's words against Israel, although, unfortunately, he relies on the Bush administration's translation of Farsi, which as we've seen before, only has a glancing relationship with reality.

This is not to single out Obama either; all of the top tier candidates have tried to earn their "I'm not a wimpy Democrat but a strong leader" bona fides with tough talk against Iran. But this kind of talk is incredibly irresponsible and we—as the progressive community—MUST be clear with the Democratic contenders who are seeking our support that if they think the occupation in Iraq is going bad, any military actions against Iran would be like Iraq on steroids. We've already seen how much damage a president with no understanding of the geo-political or cultural circumstances of an area can do. We simply cannot afford another one.

Can one remember the last time a president attacked a foreign nation based on "actionable intelligence?"

Yes, that would be the cause for getting into the current Iraq War quagmire.

How many wars have been started based on "actionable intelligence?" Not many. Generally one doesn't waste lives on things that can't be confirmed. But then we have to realize that the current policy on both sides of the aisle favor intervention and preemption. Strike first, or risk getting hit.

Now even if we believe that the next president will try to limit attacks to "surgical strikes," things don't always work out the way. Escalation happens, especially when you have the type of mindset found in Washington today.

Now, I suspect that the focus on Iran is really about Israel. About Israel's failed invasion of Lebanon and war with Hezbollah, the Shi'ite militia sponsored by Iran. Even if we don't hear much about that on the surface, people don't forget things like that easily.

Israel is an extension of America and Anglo-Saxon Protestantism in the Middle East. Yes, you heard that right. Hitherto it has easily handled the Muslim enemies that surrounded it, but now the aura of invincibility is gone. And in the process, America looks weaker also.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama, Clinton back bigger Army (2007-09-05 08:24)

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are supporting an increase in the size of the military to combat charges they are too weak on security according to Wall Street Journal article by Heidi Przybyla.

Obama, Clinton support bigger Army to counter security slams

Bloomberg -

A poll released in March by Third Way, a Washington-based policy research organization, suggests 58 percent of Americans think Democrats are "not tough

enough...

[EMBED]

Barack Obama campaigns at a fire hall in Waukeg, Iowa on Sept. 4.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama and Clinton for "Change" (2007-09-05 12:18)

Both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton began airing ads together with the same name and theme, "Change."

Hillary's ad is running in New Hampshire, while Barack's ad will air in Iowa.

The Obama ad highlights the candidate's efforts in ethics reform and bring the government back to the people.

Anyone who has closely followed both campaigns from the start will know that Obama for America starting using the "Change" first with a number of events including the "Walk for Change," all organized around the same concept.

Later on, both the Clinton and John Edwards campaign picked up on theme. Edwards for example had a "Change for Change" fundraising drive in which very small donations were solicited for the purpose of bringing about change in government. Here also the Edwards followed the Obama strategy of pursuing a large number of very small donations going down to only \$5.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Oprah Factor (2007-09-05 20:00)

With Oprah Winfrey's big fundraiser coming up this weekend the question being asked is whether the mega-media star can sway the election toward her candidate Barack Obama.

The last star of Oprah's caliber to get active in electoral politics at this level that I can think of now was Frank Sinatra, who helped both Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Ronald Reagan during their successful campaigns. Sinatra was disenchanted by his Kennedy's standoffish approach after taking office and became a Republican for the rest of

his life.



Oprah Winfrey will host a fundraiser for Obama's Democratic presidential campaign at her Montecito, Calif., mansion.

(By Kevin Clark – The Washington Post)

Sinatra was leader of the "Rat Pack" during Kennedy's time and a cultural icons to multiple generations when Reagan first ran for the White House.

Oprah is said that Barack will be the only candidate on her show during the election since fair time laws don't apply to talk shows.

That alone can be a tremendous advantage. In fact, she can support Barack through her entire media network.

There are also reports that Oprah may take a more active role in Obama's campaign. This could include appearing in television ads and at campaign events.

While Sinatra likely appealed mostly to men, Oprah's legions are found among voting age women – a group particularly powerful in the Democratic Party, and a group that many feel would tend to favor Hillary Clinton as the first woman president. If Oprah can wield the same type of influence as she has shown in other areas, this might help Barack cut into Hillary's base of support.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack leads the way on the internet (2007-09-06 21:22)

Hillary Clinton may be leading in the polls, but Barack Obama is the undisputed internet champion according to the most recent Nielsen NetRatings report.

BarackObama.com had 717,000 unique visitors or about 91 percent of the total for the websites of both Hillary Clinton and John Edwards combined.

Clinton's site drew 437,000 unique visitors in July, and Edwards had 348,000.

Fred Thompson drew the most visitors among Republicans with 381,000 during the same month.

[EMBED]

The new Obama television ad airing in Iowa.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Roland Martin on Oprah's support (2007-09-07 16:04)

Roland S. Martin, a regular commentator on both CNN and TVOne, disagrees with Oprah that her greatest contribution to the Obama campaign would be herself rather than her money.

Martin notes that Oprah can open an independent campaign organization known as a 527 and run her own tv ads. She can spend as much money as she likes, and she's a billionaire.

Unlike most other billionaires, Oprah is neither unknown or greatly disliked, something that will probably be in her favor if she decides to open a 527. Independent tv ads require that the person who paid for the ads be identified by name.

Ads coming from George Soros or Bill Gates might be viewed as negative by some who distrust corporate types. However, Oprah has a completely different image. The fact that she hasn't been involved much in politics before doesn't hurt either.

If she decided to go this route, she would be unable to consult with the official Obama campaign on any matter related to her efforts. Most likely she would hire a political consulting and media firm to develop a strategy for helping Obama win.

Pena backs Obama

Former Clinton Cabinet member Federico Pena has become a co-chair of the Obama for America campaign. Pena is one of Obama's highest profile Hispanic supporters yet and he will be tasked with helping build support in that community.



(Source: <http://www.wifr.com/elections/headlines/9646092.html>)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Black scholar says Obama is the right choice (2007-09-07 20:46)

Theodore Cross, editor of the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, published a detailed comparison of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama on issues of specific importance to African Americans.

Cross concluded that Obama's program was much better for African Americans. He also felt that many black voters are not giving Barack sufficient consideration primarily because they do not think he has a chance of winning.

For the first time in the history of our country, a black man has a credible chance of becoming president of the United States. After the long nightmare years of slavery, lynchings, Jim Crow, and enduring race discrimination, one would expect that, in the upcoming presidential primary contest, Illinois Senator Barack Obama would be the overwhelming choice of black American voters.

You can read the entire article online [here](#).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Oprah hosts gala fundraiser (2007-09-08 19:28)

The rich and famous gathered at Oprah Winfrey's mansion for her much-anticipated fete for Barack Obama. Guests payed at least \$2,300 to the Obama campaign to attend, and the event is expected to raise about \$3 million. Stevie Wonder performed at the event where guests included such names as Sidney Poiter, Halle Berry, Linda Evans, Cindy Crawford, Jamie Foxx, Jimmy Connors, Forest Whitaker, Chris Rock and others. No media was allowed at the fundraiser.

Earlier in the day, Obama spoke to a crowd of 1,000 supporters at Santa Barbara City College.

He mentioned his experience volunteering with a home health care worker in California in August.

"Listening to her talk about the hardships of her life, talking about her struggles without a trace of self-pity ... I thought, there is the essence of what America is about, this generosity of spirit," Obama said.

X

Guests arrive at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara, Calif. where they were taken by buss across town to the 42-acre estate of Oprah Winfrey for a private fundraiser for presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007. Oprah feted her favorite candidate with a private gala fundraiser at her estate in Montecito, just south of Santa Barbara. (AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant)

X

X

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama-Edwards ticket? (2007-09-09 22:39)

David Swanson, a writer who was the Press Secretary for the 2004 Dennis Kucinich for President campaign, thinks progressives should support an Barack Obama-John Edwards ticket to help defeat Hillary Clinton.

Fearing that a Clinton primary win will mean defeat for the Democrats in the general election, Swanson believes that an Obama-Edwards combo would shoot ahead of Clinton in the polls.

Although not terribly sure of what either Obama or Edwards would do if elected president, he believes that clearly Clinton would "govern from the right" based on her record. He also thinks Hillary would choose a running mate to the right of herself.

The strategy of combining Edwards and Obama ought to be especially appealing to those who really support Edwards or Obama. But it's even appealing to those, like me, who support some other candidate.

I would be surprised though if Edwards would concede at this point of the game even though he's well behind in the polls. He may agree to work with Obama to help whittle down Hillary's apparent lead with an "understanding" that if either wins, they will select the other as their running mate for the general election.

[EMBED]

Dr. Boyce Watkins analyzes Oprah Winfrey's support of Barack Obama and how it could impact the election, and possible negative effects of Oprah's political involvement among her audience.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack ain't finished yet (2007-09-12 18:19)

Reading some of the news stories, it would seem that many people are handing the race to Hillary Clinton too early. Polls are not accurate at this early stage of the game and most likely are only showing Hillary's name recognition built up over nearly two decades.

Barack Obama had a big boost early on in name recognition but then hit that predictable ceiling where he's still at basically right now. I think it won't be until "election time" when people start looking at their candidate's statements and sample ballots that we will see a possible "break" one way or another.

Not that this will necessarily go Obama's way.

Obama has built quite a campaign organization, unlike any I've seen before. They are really systematically preparing for election day. Locally and statewide in California I didn't see anything like this even when Kerry and Edwards were running with all the Democratic resources at their disposal for the general election against George W. Bush.

Barack Obama asks question on LinkedIn

Barack appeared on the professional LinkedIn.com network today with the following question publicly posted:

How can the next president help small business and entrepreneurs thrive?



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wins Nebraska straw poll (2007-09-14 19:13)

Barack Obama received some campaign boosts recently including winning a Nebraska straw poll. It was reported today that Obama won the Husker Harvest Days straw poll attended mainly by farmers and ranchers. Of the 165 votes cast by Democrats, 35 % were for Obama, 31 % were for Sen. Hilary Clinton of New York and 16 % were for John Edwards, the former senator from North Carolina.

California Black Caucus endorsement

On Thursday, Obama picked up an important endorsement from the California legislature's black caucus. There are eight members in the caucus, but Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, D-Oakland dissented throwing his support instead for Hillary Clinton.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama does well with military, environmentalists (2007-09-16 13:23)

A report by the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics shows that Barack Obama leads all other presidential candidates in donations from people in the military. Ron Paul, another candidate who like Obama opposes the Iraq War, was in second place.

Good news also comes to the Obama campaign from the League of Conservation Voters that rates Barack highest on environmental issues among all the presidential candidates. Obama had a 96 rating compared to Dennis Kucinich who came in second with a 92 rating.

Iowa endorsements

The Lawmaker Endorsement War is heating up in Iowa as Democrat presidential candidate Sen. Barack of Illinois threw kerosene on to the fire by announcing the endorsement of four Iowa lawmakers. Iowa State Senators Rich Olive of Story City, Frank Wood of Eldridge, Representative Helen Miller of Fort Dodge and Representative Janet Peterson of Des Moines endorsed Obama for president today.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama discusses George W. Bush's 9-13 address on the Iraq War with CNN's Larry King.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



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[EMBED]

Barack Obama discusses George W. Bush's 9-13 address on the Iraq War with CNN's Larry King.

Obama names National Outreach Team (2007-09-17 21:16)

The Obama campaign announced its national outreach team today that will focus on growing support for Barack in specific communities. Here's the lineup:

National Advisory Outreach Team:

Preeta Bansal, AAPI Outreach

Reverend Willie Barrow, Faith Outreach

Assemblywoman Karen Bass, African American Outreach

Stampp Corbin, LGBT Outreach

Wizipan Garriott, Native American Outreach

General Scott Gration, Veteran Outreach

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, Latino Outreach

John Hurley, Veteran Outreach

Reverend Joseph Lowery, Faith Outreach

Rep. Gwen Moore, African American Outreach

Majority Leader Gloria Romero, Latino Outreach

Rep. Robert Wexler, Jewish Outreach

Tobias Wolff, LGBT Outreach

Jim Zogby, Arab American Outreach

I believe Jim Zogby of the Arab American Outreach group is the same senior analyst that works with polling company Zogby International.

In a new pitch to raise money for the September fundraising deadline the Obama campaign is offering 10 lawn signs for \$12.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama offers \$80 billion tax fairness plan (2007-09-18 17:12)

Seeking to reverse the Republican plan of tax relief for the wealthy, Barack Obama unveiled a new plan that would cut \$80 billion in taxes for the middle class and poor.

His "tax fairness" plan would make up the difference by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Obama will dump income taxes for 7 million senior citizens making less than \$50,000 a year, establish a universal credit for 10 million homeowners who do not itemize deductions, and providing 150 million Americans with tax relief of up to \$1,000.

The new plan will also seek to simplify the filing process with a new "five-minute" form.

Obama for America phonebanking nationwide

The Obama campaign has organized online phone-banking to take advantage of its hefty netroots support.

Currently, they're using online phone-bankers to help organize the big rally in New York City on Sept. 27:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack aims for 350,000 donors (2007-09-24 09:21)

The Obama campaign today sent a letter saying that it was aiming for a goal of 350,000 donors and 500,000 donations by the end of September, the close of the third fundraising quarter.

Currently they have 333,774 donors who have made 472,524 contributions.

Now at the end of the second quarter, Obama had a total of 258,000 donors with more than 100,000 donors in the first quarter and about 150,000 in the second.

So it looks like this time around the campaign will be hard-pressed to get 100,000 contributors with just several days left in the month.

Has the Obama fundraising phenomenon peaked?

Maybe at least in terms of the breadth of donors. The campaign still had some very major fundraisers this time including the Oprah bash and presumably still could do as well as previous quarters in terms of overall money raised. Indeed they could still exceed those totals.

Also, it might not make much of a difference if Obama is still able to outraise the other candidates including Hillary Clinton in money available for the primary.

Compared to last quarter, the Clinton campaign is rather low-key on fundraising and appears satisfied with its strong lead in the polls. The Clinton website is not pushing in major fundraising goals. In comparison, John Edwards has a "10 Days/ \$1 million" drive going on at this site.

More endorsements

Obama picked up the endorsement of correctional officers in New York City today and also the support of former Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Gordon Fischer.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's NH debate performance (2007-09-27 08:40)

Barack Obama did reasonably well in the NBC New Hampshire debate last night.

It seemed that Obama was talking the cool, composed approach while most of his opponents were sound very fired-up and aggressively seeking to distinguish themselves. Obama is doing well in the post-debate online MSNBC poll suggesting that online users at least liked Obama's performance

However, Obama's lack of aggressiveness may account for his for the first time not leading on the Chris Dodd campaign's debate "Talk Clock":



IFRAME: http://chrisdodd.com/files/talkclock/nh_d_2-chart.html

In past debates, Obama has led other opponents by a large margin in the amount of time that he talked on-screen. Clinton's lead seemed to me to come from her many interjections and her repeated instances of talking over moderator Tim Russert, when the latter was trying to keep her on topic.

Although generally Obama looked fresh at times his eyes looked tired as if he has been doing a lot of reading. His posture though was good and he looked quite presidential.

He also did a good job with the 30 second answer questions. In previous debates, Obama had some problems fielding questions requiring very short answers.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama holds NYC mega-rally (2007-09-28 10:29)

Barack Obama did what he did best again in New York City attracting a massive crowd of about 24,000 months before a primary election on Hillary Clinton's home turf.

While Obama opponents may say crowds do not win elections, certainly they would also rather have similar shows of support for their own favored candidate.

If Obama can mobilize these crowds not only to give money but to donate time in volunteering substantial hours to the campaign, they can surely make a great difference. This has been demonstrated many times in the past in well-run grassroots efforts.

Barack Obama at Washington Square Rally in New York City [EMBED]



Barack on the Tyra Banks Show. Tyra gave Barack a crystal ball which she suggested as a gift to Michelle in celebration of their 15th anniversary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama reaches fundrasing goal, leads in Iowa (2007-09-30 14:02)

There is reason to celebrate in the Barack Obama camp today as it was announced the campaign had met both of its goals for the third quarter fundraising deadline.

A note from campaign manager David Plouffe indicated the campaign has collected more than 350,000 donors contributed at least 500,000 donations by Sunday, the last day of the 3rd quarter.

Sometime tomorrow we should find out which candidates had taken in the most cash for the quarter, which traditionally a slow one for raising money.

The Obama camp also got good news from a just-released Newsweek poll that shows Barack leading in the first primary state of Iowa. Obama won 28 percent in that poll while Clinton gets 24 percent and Edwards has 22 percent. If one includes second and third place votes in the scoring of the poll, Barack leads by eight points.

Obama's campaign strategy is to do well in the early states and build up momentum toward Super Duper Tuesday.



Democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama, D-Ill., shakes hands during stop in Concord, N.H., Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007. AP Photo/Jim Cole via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



1.10 October

Clinton buries Obama for first time in 3Q (2007-10-02 08:14)

After outraising Hillary Clinton in the first quarter to everybody's surprise, and then topping that significantly in the second quarter, many were seeing Barack Obama's money machine as unstoppable.

However, the early third quarter reports are ominous for the Obama campaign. Not only is Hillary leading in the polls, but now she's raising more cash with more donors than the Illinois senator.

What happened to the vaunted grassroots Obama fundraising effort?

Although its impossible to say for sure, I wonder if Obama's militaristic positions expressed in the last quarter might not have turned away many supporters from the Democratic base.

It was in this quarter, through a journal article and a foreign policy speech that Barack for the first time since the start of the campaign clearly stated positions demonstrating his attitudes on preemptive military action and foreign intervention.

Not only did he express such views but he reiterated and clarified them several times to the media. Democrats looking to "turn the page" on this type of policy surely must have been disheartened.

Furthermore, there was the appearance that Obama's foreign policy is largely being driven by advisers of whose views and history we know little. And there also could have been the perception that Obama was modifying his positions to pander to more conservative voters and reverse his flagging poll numbers.

All these factors could have influenced the confidence of supporters that Obama would not lead the country into further possibly even more devastating warfare through a series of "surgical strikes" that could quickly escalate into something bloodier.

Obama's distinction was that he appeared as the choice for voters looking for peace early on, but now he may have lost that edge. If this is true, he will need to replace that highly motivated segment of voters with others that will pick up the slack. Not an easy job with the start of the primary election just three months away.

Of course, the Obama campaign never expected to outraise Hillary in the first place, but once the expectation was created after the first two quarters, this comes as a big letdown. And momentum is very important in politics.

Probably even more important than the gross amount raised is the fact that Hillary had more donors than Barack for the first time.

Today, Obama gives a foreign policy speech in which he will announce a plan to rid the world of all nuclear weapons. While it sounds good, I think many may see it as a purely political attempt at winning back support that he has lost from base voters. Not only confidence but trust has also been lost in my view.

Whether that trust can be regained is a big question. In the meantime, a lot of bandwagon jumpers can be expected to shift toward the Hillary camp.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Schakowsky endorses Obama (2007-10-02 18:22)

Barack Obama picked up the endorsement of fellow Illinois Dem. Jan Schakowsky today.

Schakowsky said that Obama was the only candidate " who really has the capacity to send a very different signal around the world, someone who can effectively go to capitals of both our allies and our adversaries and create a new new tone that creates the space for peace."

In Obama's foreign policy speech today he spoke of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and also stressed these points:

He would personally conduct negotiations with other nations, including hostile countries.

Give the director of national intelligence a fixed term of office, so he could not be replaced by the president for political reasons.

Fight global poverty and double foreign assistance to \$50 billion a year.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama focusing in on Iowa and New Hampshire (2007-10-03 19:41)

Barack Obama has been running tv ads in Iowa for some time now. Those ads are probably at least partly responsible for his recent favorable poll showing in that state.

Obama is hoping to win or do very well in Iowa to boost his campaign but some analysts wonder if there is enough time between Iowa and New Hampshire to make a difference.

The campaign recently announced it would begin running tv ads in New Hampshire also so it seems they are expanding now to a two-state strategy.

Television in Nevada and South Carolina may be just a month or two away. Up to now, Obama has spent nearly \$2 million in ads next only to Bill Richardson among Democrats, the latter spending about \$2 million. However, unlike Richardson, Obama has concentrated his air time in Iowa.

I still feel South Carolina will make or break the Obama campaign. If he can do well in the first three states and win South Carolina, he has a good chance on Super Duper Tuesday. Things would look very grim, on the other hand, if he loses South Carolina.

Obama really needs the black vote now as I believe he has lost a lot of Iraq War opponents this quarter. If he can win South Carolina, it could signal that black voters have come to believe in him as a candidate.

That could tip the scales in a number of states on Super Duper Tuesday and possibly also in Florida, which is also holding early polls. His supporters would be highly motivated after winning a big primary before Feb. 5 when as many as 20 states will vote for a Democratic candidate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama might want to lay low (2007-10-04 09:27)

With the "inevitability" of Hillary Clinton again becoming a dominant theme in the media, Barack Obama might want to go into stealth mode.

Some Republican candidates are already starting to concentrate on attacking Clinton while ignoring Obama and the

other Democrats. Allow Hillary to be built up as much as possible, driving up expectations.

Then if Hillary loses in January (or December) or even if she wins but just barely and below expectations, she will look vulnerable and momentum can shift rapidly in that case.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama on anniversary of his decision to oppose the Iraq War.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack on Federal Spending Transparency (2007-10-05 07:47)

Here is a YouTube video of the Coburn/Obama bill on federal spending transparency.

This was Obama's first successful bill in the U.S. Senate. Here is Barack's resume to get an idea of his wider accomplishments.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Obama ad features Air Force General (2007-10-05 18:17)

Barack Obama began airing a new television ad featuring General Merrill A. McPeak, a combat veteran who has endorsed the Illinois senator.

[EMBED]

"As a combat pilot and Air Force chief during Desert Storm, lives depended on the judgments I made. And judgment is what we need from our next commander in chief. Barack Obama opposed this war in Iraq from the start, showing insight and courage others did not."

Obama's previous tv ads have run in Iowa.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama tops in Iowa staff (2007-10-06 14:22)

The extent to which Barack Obama is concentrating his forces in Iowa was revealed in reports that he has some 200 staff members in the state.

In comparison, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards have somewhere between half and three-quarters that amount of staff in Iowa.

Most of Obama's tv ad campaigns have also been concentrated in Iowa.

Recently though, Barack has started tv ads in New Hampshire as well. Previously the Obama campaign had run an online advertising effort in the Granite State.

Obama in Iowa and New Hampshire



Barack Obama meets with people in New Hampton, Iowa. AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama announces green energy plan (2007-10-08 15:12)

Barack Obama today unveiled an ambitious plan to combat climate change by cutting U.S. green house gas emissions 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050.

In a speech Obama will deliver in New Hampshire, he says: "Now, some of these policies are difficult politically. They aren't easy. But being president of the United States isn't about doing what's easy. It's about doing what's hard."

Obama plans to invest about \$150 billion in developing green energy sources like biofuels, and he promised to cut dependence on foreign oil at least 35 percent by 2030.

Former Secretary of Energy Federico Pena, an Obama supporter, commented on the aggressive proposal:

"Support Barack Obama's comprehensive, bold, and thoughtful strategy to address global warming and to put our country on the path to energy independence. It is time to stop talking and time to take bold and effective actions towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Our nation must become a leader in attacking global warming and Barack Obama is just the leader to do that."

Barack recently won a straw poll taken by the League of Conservation Voters in which respondents were asked to rate candidates on environmental issues.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



fred_thelion (2007-10-12 09:08:00)

I believe this will up Obama's scores very much because almost every American wants to help with green house gasses yet do not want to fix the problem themselves. This will help America unite its self with Obama.

Obama supports Peru FTA (2007-10-09 16:07)

Barack Obama announced today he will support a free trade agreement with Peru as it met environmental and labor standards.

According to some sources, the AFL-CIO does not support the agreement.

Barack said that he was for free trade under the right conditions: "I am not going to say on a blanket basis that I'm going to vote against trade agreements. We cannot draw a moat around the U.S. economy because China is still trading, India is still trading."

Michelle Obama involved in traffic accident

A campaign van carrying Michelle Obama collided with a motorcycle on a narrow country road in Iowa Tuesday, sending the motorcyclist to the hospital.

No one in Obama's Chevrolet Uplander was hurt, although the van was badly damaged. The campaign suspended its final event of the day.

[EMBED]

Rasmussen Reports has an article that examines whether Obama is experiencing a turnaround in the polls.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama warns against Iran attack in op-ed (2007-10-11 09:52)

The New Hampshire-based Union Leader published an important op-ed article from Barack Obama today. Obama talks about the Lieberman-Kyl amendment that opens the door for an attack on Iran via the current war in Iraq.

The new opinion piece gives pro-peace progressives something to grab on after Obama's previous confusing and seemingly militaristic declarations on Iran and Pakistan.

His position is also clearly at odds with that of his presidential race opponent Hillary Clinton, who supports Lieberman-Kyl.

Sen. Clinton says she was merely voting for more diplomacy, not war with Iran. If this has a familiar ring, it should. Five years after the original vote for war in Iraq, Sen. Clinton has argued that her vote was not for war – it was for diplomacy, or inspections. But all of us knew what the Senate was debating in 2002. John Edwards has renounced his own vote for the war, and he should be applauded for his candor. After all, we didn't need to authorize a war in order to have United Nations weapons inspections. No one thought Congress was debating diplomacy. No newspaper headlines ran on Oct. 12, 2002, reading, "Congress authorizes diplomacy." This was a vote to authorize war, and without that vote, there would have been no war.

The Union Leader article gives Obama supporters ammunition to show that their candidate really is interested in pursuing peaceful solutions. Here is the full text of the article:

Sen. Barack Obama: Five years after Iraq war vote, we're still foolishly rattling our sabers

By SEN. BARACK OBAMA

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Sen.+Barack+Obama%3A+Five+years+after+Iraq+war+vote%2C+we're+still+foolishly+rattling+our+sabers&articleId=a41d44e5-0c56-4353-b9f6-5eda09c81236>

ON THE FIFTH anniversary of the Senate's vote to authorize an open-ended war in Iraq, we should resolve to never repeat the terrible mistake of launching a misguided war. But unfortunately, the Senate risked doing exactly that when it recently opened the door to an extension and escalation of the ongoing war in Iraq to include military action against Iran.

There is no doubt that Iran poses a threat. It has armed terrorists beyond its borders, maintains an illicit nuclear program, and its leaders have issued belligerent threats that are a concern to us all. But our first and most important avenue to contain Iranian aggression is to try the tough and direct diplomacy that the Bush administration has too often disdained. Instead of encouraging that diplomacy, an amendment

passed last month by the Senate could be used by the President as justification to strike Iran under the authority granted to him by the 2002 Iraq war resolution.

The amendment, offered by Sens. Joe Lieberman and Jon Kyl, directly links the ongoing war in Iraq – including our troop presence – to checking the threat from Iran. The amendment opens with 17 findings that highlight Iranian influence within Iraq. It then states that we have to “transition(s) and structure” our “military presence in Iraq” to counter the threat from Iran, and states that it is “a critical national interest of the United States” to prevent the Iranian government from exerting influence inside Iraq.

Why is this so dangerous? The Bush administration could use language like this to justify a continued troop presence in Iraq as long as it perceives a threat from Iran. Even worse, the Bush administration could use the language in Lieberman-Kyl to justify an attack on Iran as a part of the ongoing war in Iraq.

As my colleague Sen. Joe Biden, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said in opposing the amendment, “I do not want to give the President and his lawyers any argument that Congress has somehow authorized military actions.”

He is exactly right. Because as we learned with the original authorization of the Iraq war – when you give this President a blank check, you can’t be surprised when he cashes it.

I strongly differ with Sen. Hillary Clinton, who was the only Democratic presidential candidate to support this reckless amendment. We do need to tighten sanctions on the Iranian regime, particularly on Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, which sponsors terrorism far beyond Iran’s borders. But this must be done separately from any unnecessary saber-rattling about checking Iranian influence with our “military presence in Iraq.” Above all, it must be done through tough and direct diplomacy with Iran, which I have supported, and which Sen. Clinton has called “naive and irresponsible.”

Sen. Clinton says she was merely voting for more diplomacy, not war with Iran. If this has a familiar ring, it should. Five years after the original vote for war in Iraq, Sen. Clinton has argued that her vote was not for war – it was for diplomacy, or inspections. But all of us knew what the Senate was debating in 2002. John Edwards has renounced his own vote for the war, and he should be applauded for his candor. After all, we didn’t need to authorize a war in order to have United Nations weapons inspections. No one thought Congress was debating diplomacy. No newspaper headlines ran on Oct. 12, 2002, reading, “Congress authorizes diplomacy.” This was a vote to authorize war, and without that vote, there would have been no war.

America needs a leader who will make the right judgments about matters as grave as war and peace, and America needs a leader who will be straight with them. When I spoke out against going to war in Iraq in 2002, I knew that I was putting my political career on the line. Going to war was popular; so was President Bush. But I felt strongly that a war in Iraq would lead to an open-ended and destructive occupation of Iraq, and weaken us in the fight against al-Qaida in Afghanistan. And I felt a responsibility to say so.

Now, the Senate has once again voted for an amendment that goes out of its way to draw connections between distinct threats, and that replaces judicious policy-making with unnecessary saber-rattling. And once again, we hear that it is not really a vote for more war, it is a vote for more diplomacy.

But the way to support diplomacy is to actually pursue it, which is what I have called for in this campaign. Not the ad hoc Bush-Cheney diplomacy of not talking to people we don’t like, but real, direct, and sustained diplomacy that exhausts all of our options instead of rushing to war.

In choosing their next President, the American people need to look at the judgments each of the candidates has made on war in the past, and at who has clearly learned the lessons of this disastrous war going forward.

This is not a debate about 2002; it’s about the future, and in that debate I can run on, and not from, my record.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., is running for the Democratic nomination for President.

-

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Durbin disagrees on Iran, but says Obama poised for Iowa win (2007-10-12 15:39)

Sen. Dick Durbin disagreed with fellow Illinois Sen. Barack Obama on the latter's criticism of Hillary Clinton over her Iran War vote. However, he continues to support Obama and said that a win by Barack in Iowa will springboard the candidate toward the front of the pack.

"It's rare that Barack and I disagree on an issue of this magnitude," Durbin said in a Bloomberg tv interview. "I have the same concerns that Barack Obama does about this administration and what they might do with the power that they have. But I don't think this resolution gives them a green light to do anything."

[EMBED]

Barack Obama speaks with Wolf Blitzer on CNN's Situation Room on his opposition to moves to justify military action against Iran and in particular the Lieberman-Kyl amendment.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama goes door-to-door in Iowa (2007-10-13 21:43)

Barack Obama continued to press a grassroots strategy in his campaign going door-to-door himself in Iowa as part of a nationwide canvassing effort.

The walk emphasized Obama's opposition to the Iraq War.

"The main thing that we want to communicate today is that this war that we've been fighting in Iraq has got to stop, that we can no longer afford \$275 million (€198.31 million) a day spent on a civil war between factions in Iraq where there is no military solution to be had, that it's time for us to begin bringing our young men and women home — they have been there long enough," Obama said during a morning talk at a high school in Des Moines.

In the evening, Obama joined Hillary Clinton and John Edwards for a black women's political action group forum.

Illinois teachers union endorses Obama

The Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) endorsed Obama on Saturday

"On the critical issues facing our country - from creating a health care system that works to supporting public schools and increasing access to higher education to ending the war - Barack Obama's beliefs and his record of public service place him above a strong field of candidates," said IFT President Ed Geppert Jr.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Illinois SEIU endorses Obama, Iowa goes for Edwards (2007-10-15 11:04)

Illinois state chapter of the Service Employees International Union has unanimously voted to endorse Barack Obama for president.

SEIU President Tom Balanoff described Obama as "a real fighter for working families."

However, the Iowa chapter of SEIU announced today it will be supporting John Edwards. This reportedly will prevent Illinois SEIU members from coming to campaign for Obama in Iowa.

The national SEIU will not be making an endorsement, but other state chapters are expected to announce their support soon.

One of the most important union endorsements the candidates can seek for the early states is that of the Culinary Workers in Nevada, which has a reputation of turning elections one way or another. Another important union is AFSCME.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Campaign collects funds in London, Madison (2007-10-15 16:34)

According to reports in The Swamp, a campaign fundraiser Monday evening in London attended by Michelle Obama was veiled in secrecy with guests apparently not wanting their identities known.

The event was closed to the press, and a Tribune reporter interviewing supporters in the Landmark Hotel lobby was reportedly rebuffed by a campaign aide.

Barack himself was attending a fundraiser in Madison, Wisconsin on Monday where supporters paid \$500-a-head. About 130 people showed up including Gov. Jim Doyle, who however has not yet endorsed Obama.

Obama's first quarter and second quarter funds topped those of other candidates but he fell behind Hillary Clinton in third quarter fundraising. However, he still has the most money of any candidate left to spend for the primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Alice Walker endorses Obama (2007-10-15 20:47)

Writer Alice Walker, whose books include "The Color Purple" has endorsed Barack Obama's campaign for the presidency.

She characterized Obama as strong but compassionate, calling his candidacy "joyful."

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack banking on Iowa (2007-10-16 08:06)

Sen. Barack Obama is investing heavily in Iowa field offices and is hitting one voter at a time.

Obama is outspending Hillary Clinton by 20 percent in the state with 31 offices and abundant paid staff. In addition, the campaign has been running extended television ads in the state.

One recent Newsweek poll showed the Illinois senator leading in Iowa.

Obviously the campaign wants to win Iowa or at least knock one of the other candidates out to be in position for a head-on-head match in Nevada and New Hampshire. They probably do not want to come in third!

As Nevada comes before New Hampshire, it may impact any momentum gained in Iowa and thus is a hard state to ignore. One strategy the campaign is using is bringing in supporters from other states, particularly from California to help in Nevada.

In both Nevada and Iowa, Obama is trying to avoid mistakes made by Howard Dean by using supporter cards to register his strength in any voting area. Dean is thought to have overestimated his support leading to not putting enough resources in the right places.

The supporter cards are like pledges that also register how committed each respondent is to Barack's campaign.

Obama will also hold statewide house parties as practice sessions for caucus night.



Barack Obama talks with supporters during a neighborhood canvas in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007. AP Photo/Kevin Sanders via Yahoo News.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack details rural development policy (2007-10-16 15:26)

Barack Obama released details of his rural development policy Tuesday promising aid to small farms and support for biofuels and organic farming.

"We must be vigilant to ensure that we do this in a sustainable fashion so that land and water resources are conserved," Obama said.

Here are some of the key points of Obama's rural plan:

- A \$250,000 limit on subsidies to farmers and strict environmental standards for large livestock operations.

- Creation of new cost-sharing programs to help farmers get certification as organic farmers, and revamping crop insurance programs to avoid penalizing organic producers.

- A goal of a 50 percent increase in the economy's energy efficiency by 2030.

- A change to allow small businesses to pool together to offer health insurance for workers, with subsidies for those who can't afford it. Also, overhaul the Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement system that can penalize rural areas.

In July, Obama released his plan to tackle urban poverty.

Major Owens endorses Obama

Former Congressman and Brooklyn leader Major Owens has endorsed Barack Obama going against the local Democratic Party, which endorsed Hillary Clinton on the previous day. In a statement, Owens says:

"Obama stands for the concerns of the masses in the black community who have been let down by the broken promises of past leadership. Our leadership on both sides of the aisle has continued to fail us by supporting the war in Iraq and by standing by while poverty, disparities in our healthcare system and lack of affordable education opportunities for young people weaken our communities. It is time to shake loose from the past and Senator Obama's record shows that he will deliver on his promise to stand up for us in the White House."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Youth vote still key for Obama (2007-10-16 20:34)

Although some polls are showing Hillary Clinton beating all the other candidates combined, Barack Obama still draws thousands of supporters to campaign events.

Many of this enthusiasts are young people, the kind of people likely to be overlooked in opinion polls.

Indeed, most campaign polls only consider people who have voted in the last election or the last two elections. So new voters, or young people that have not been consistent voters will be left out.

Mobilizing and turning out these young voters will take some resources though. That is why it is necessary for Obama to have funds left over after Iowa. Even if he wins Iowa, there's not enough time to raise a whole lot of money before voting starts again.

So the campaign has to watch its budget.

Networking on BlackPlanet

In addition to young voters another possible sleeper for Obama would be the African American vote.

Recently, Barack opened up a page on BlackPlanet a social networking site with some 17 million registered users. So far, Obama's page has accrued 60,000 friends. Barack also has pages on Migente.com, a Latino community site; AsianAvenue.com and GLEE.com, a site for the GLBT community.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Obama ad targets greenhouse emissions, Detroit (2007-10-17 10:32)

Barack Obama's campaign has unveiled what I feel is their best television ad yet focusing on reducing the dependence on foreign oil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The ad takes a jab at Detroit automakers with Obama saying: "We can't just tell them what they want to hear, we need to tell them what they need to hear, we need to tell them the truth!"

Titled "Quiet," the ad reiterates points Barack made in a speech in Detroit last May.

[Click here to see "Quiet."](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Deval Patrick set to endorse Barack Obama (2007-10-17 15:44)

It was expected sooner or later, so it's no surprise that the Boston Herald is reporting that Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick will endorse Barack Obama .

Patrick and Obama are friends with both having links to Chicago.

The endorsement is expected to help Obama raise money in the state, which traditionally gives millions to presidential candidates.

Nearly \$1 million in a day

Urging supporters to make up a \$2.1 million deficit in campaign funds behind Hillary Clinton, Obama has succeeded in raising nearly \$1 million in the last day.

The campaign is asking for donations of \$25, and first-time donors are allowed to send campaign messages urging others to contribute.

Barack could use the extra money to help pay for his new Obama campaign office in Carson City, Nevada.

[EMBED]

Obama talks about foreign policy and how the administration convinced Democrats that the only way for them to appear patriotic and sound on defense was to talk, act and vote like Republicans on the Iraq War.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2007-10-17 15:44)

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Paul, Obama lead in military contributions (2007-10-17 19:35)

Republican Ron Paul lead all presidential candidates in contributions from the military according to the third quarter finance reports. Barack Obama came in second and first among Democrats.

In the previous quarter, Obama led followed by Paul in second.

Paul received \$63,440 in donations from current military employees and several retired military personnel followed by Obama with \$53,968 and John McCain came in third with \$48,308.

McCain is a decorated Vietnam Veteran and ex-Navy pilot.

Obama and Paul both publicly oppose the war in Iraq.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




More SEIUs endorse Barack Obama (2007-10-18 13:32)

The Missouri-Kansas state SEIU labor union has endorsed Barack Obama according to the group's leader Lenny Jones. Illinois' SEIU has already endorsed Obama, while Iowa went for John Edwards.

Obama did get some good news also from Iowa where Rep. Mark Smith, D-Marshalltown endorsed the Illinois senator on Wednesday.

"He comes from the great state of Illinois, near Iowa, and has a good sense of what issues are important to people in the heartland," Smith said.

Responding to news of Smith's support, Obama said in a press release, "Rep. Smith will play an instrumental role in building our grassroots support in Marshalltown and throughout Iowa. We're proud to have his support in our effort to challenge the conventional thinking in Washington, D.C. and transform our nation."

Mark Smith, Iowa Rep. 

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack leads in higher education donations (2007-10-18 15:13)

The latest campaign-finance reports, released today by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan research group, show Senator Barack Obama with nearly \$2.1-million in donations from college administrators, faculty members, and other higher-education employees.

That keeps Senator Obama well in front among 2008 presidential candidates in funds raised from higher education sources, ahead of fellow Democrat, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, at nearly \$1.7-million.

Mitt Romney, the leading Republican raised \$568,000 from education sources. Fourth is Rudolph W. Giuliani with \$429,000; followed by John Edwards at \$408,000; Gov. Bill Richardson at \$333,000; and Sen. John McCain at \$231,000.

Former Sen. Fred Thompson, who entered the race last month, is in 11th place with \$54,000. Barack has also been a leader in raising funds from military personnel and environmentalists.

Closing funding gap

Barack Obama is quickly nearing his goal of \$2.1 million to help close the fundraising gap with Hillary Clinton.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama emphasizes Iraq War stance in Reno (2007-10-19 07:35)

Barack Obama highlighted the contrast of his opposition to the Iraq War with the authorization voted for by some of his opponents, while campaigning in Reno Thursday.

"The American people were failed by a president who led us to war and didn't tell us the whole truth," Obama said. "But the American people were also failed by the majority of Congress, who voted to give the president opened-ended authority to wage war that he uses to this day. 'Let's be clear, without that vote there would be no war.'"

Obama also mentioned the Senate's vote last month making Iran's Republican Guard a 'foreign terrorist organization,' a move that could be used to justify an Iran attack.

"George Bush and Dick Cheney must hear loud and clear: You don't have our support, you don't have our authorization for another war. You don't have it," Obama told an enthusiastic crowd. Polls show that the Iraq War is far away the most important issue for Nevada voters in the presidential election.

This was Obama's second visit to the early voting state and he heads to Las Vegas where he hopes to drum up labor support.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Targeted committees growing in Obama campaign (2007-10-19 10:43)

Sen. Barack Obama may have been a little slow getting his focus groups going, but they have been coming online at a good clip recently.

Currently, Obama's website shows the following groups have been targeted:

- African Americans
- Americans Abroad
- Environmentalists
- First Americans
- Generation Obama
- Kids
- Latinos
- LGBT
- People of Faith
- Students
- Women
- More coming soon

This list excludes states for which committees have already been formed:

- Iowa
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- South Carolina
- Illinois
- More States

A total of 23 state-specific committees are up and running.

Committees focused on specific communities and demographics are very important for any campaign. These groups prefer to work with at least some people from within their group that they consider leaders, activists, etc.

A group-specific committee will know the ropes in how to deal most effectively with that community. The Obama campaign worked quickly to open up groups like Students for Obama and Women for Obama. However, some believe that he may have been a little slow in targeting minorities as he does not want to be perceived as a "minority candidate." Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, has not hesitated in portraying herself as a hope for women in politics.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

(2007-10-19 11:31)

Winter Sonata is a Korean telenovela, the second part of the KBS TV drama Endless Love.

Winter Sonata is a part of what is known as the Korean Wave, highly popular television dramas that have attracted huge followings in Asian countries. The show is known as [겨울연가](#) in Japanese, **Sonata de Invierno** in Spanish, and [冬季恋歌](#) in Chinese. Many fans seek Winter Sonata lyrics.

As to why Winter Sonata has become such a big hit in Asia, Diana Lee writes:

What is it about *Winter Sonata* that touches so many women of all ages throughout Asia? Upon a closer scrutiny, this Korean TV drama series offers more than a complex love story, intriguing plot twists, good acting, memorable scenes and lines, not to mention, breathtaking winter scenery backed up by melancholic music tunes. Under the crafty direction of Yun Seok Ho, the series presented a mastery of cinematic techniques tugging at one's heartstrings, like the sound and visual effects of a big screen effectively capturing one's imagination. Moreover, it addressed the perennial theme of love in all its complexity in our ever-changing society.

Some Winter Sonata links:

Winter Sonata - Wikipedia

Love Story, Korean: [겨울연가](#)) was the second part of the KBS TV drama series Endless Love.

Winter Sonata (2002) - Korean Drama Reviews - spcnet.tvReviews of TV series from TVB, ATV, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea and Singapore. Forums and stars galleries.

"Gyeoul yeonga" (2002) Also Known As:. Endless Love: Winter Sonata

(Philippines: English title) Winter Sonata (International: English title) (literal title)

Barack reaches out to Nevada Latinos (2007-10-19 12:40)

Barack Obama 's campaign team is launching a statewide effort to court the Latino vote in Nevada with events in Las Vegas and Reno on Friday.

Former Energy and Transportation Secretary and Obama National Campaign Co-Chair Federico Peña will host the events on Friday, October 19th at Si Amigos Restaurant in Reno and Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant in Las Vegas.

These events are free and open to the public. To RSVP, email nevada@barackobama.com or call Stephen Brokaw at 702-253-2008. Nevada also has a significant Asian Pacific Islander population with strong presence in the unions of Las Vegas, Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Assorted Obama News and Videos (2007-10-19 13:00)


Here are some clips from Barack Obama 's appearance on the Tavis Smiley Show last night.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Obama's Iowa MySpace team has organized youth forums in that state together with MySpace and MTV.

Here is an excerpt from the official campaign blog:

Our Iowa MySpace team introduced Barack's Iowa Presidential Dialogue at Coe College sponsored by MySpace and MTV. The forum will stream live on MySpace.com, MTV's ChooseOrLose.com and MTV Mobile, airing at 7 p.m. ET that evening on MTV. The dialogue will be moderated by MTV News correspondents Gideon Yago and Sway Calloway, as well as WashingtonPost.com political reporter Chris Cillizza. For additional information on this event visit either www.myspace.com/barackobama_IA or www.myspace.com/election2008. 

YouTube videos of Barack's recent appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno: [EMBED]

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Patrick to endorse Obama at Boston Common rally

Boston Herald AP – Gov. Deval Patrick will announce his endorsement of presidential contender Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Barack Obama: Pragmatist learned to adapt to different worlds

By SHARON COHEN

CHICAGO - It was a Wednesday night ritual for Barack Obama: After a day of debating taxes, the death penalty or some other divisive issue, he'd head to a meeting of "The Committee."

Lawmakers and lobbyists, Democrats and Republicans alike, would put politics on hold and gather for ... their weekly poker game.

It was a chance for Obama, then an Illinois state lawmaker, to socialize over cards and cigars (or, in his case, cigarettes). It also was a way for this son of an African goat herder, this Harvard-educated lawyer, author and professor to show he could be just one of the guys.

Read more...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama promises immediate Iraq pullout (2007-10-19 20:45)

Speaking to a crowd of 5,000 Friday at Arizona State University in Tempe, Sen. Barack Obama pledged to order a U.S. troop pullout from Iraq upon taking office.

Raul Alvarar, director of Obama's campaign in Arizona, said he thinks Obama's consistent opposition to the war in Iraq will present a clear choice to Hillary Rodham Clinton, who voted to authorize the war. This

More combative style

Many observers have noted that Barack is taking on Hillary much more in his public statements. A Politico blogger speculates that this may be driven by supporters who are getting worried by Obama's position in the polls.

Obama's handlers, however, keep assuring the faithful that the strategy of winning or beating expectation in Iowa and building up momentum will work.

I have to think that Hillary Clinton's camp is under a lot pressure now. If she goes up any more in the polls, even Pollyanna would have to suspect something was fishy in Denmark.

The Obama camp was able to celebrate they're reaching the goal of \$2.1 million to close the funding gap with Clinton.

X



A crowd of Obama supporters in Nevada on Thursday.

There is a great article in Esquire about the Bush administration's moves toward war with Iran:
The Secret History of the Impending War with Iran That the White House Doesn't Want You to Know

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama campaign strategy (2007-10-20 07:51)

After having discussed Barack Obama's campaign with some other supporters, I've been musing a bit over campaign strategy .

One thing I've been hearing a lot is that Barack isn't edgy enough, that he's taking too much of an intellectual approach to the campaign. They want to see that game face, the posture and behavior of someone who already feels they own the office. My suspicion is that Obama may be saving something for the "fourth quarter" as it's difficult to keep energies at high levels for sustained periods of time. However, that's just a feeling.

Possibly, Obama's handlers could be pushing their candidate a bit too hard wearing him out in the process. It's probably better to be at your best and create a buzz at fewer events than to fail to impress at a larger number of venues. Image is everything in electoral campaigns.

Focusing, targeting

Obama observers know that the senator is concentrating a lot of resources and energy toward an Iowa strategy. Is he doing enough, though, in other early states or other major states? I've heard this question a lot also.

There will be less time than usual to build up support after early state voting. On Feb. 5, 2007, the election will likely be decided. Right now, it looks like a three-way race and the third place finisher in Iowa will be in a big hole. But there will be a chance to recover in Nevada before the very important New Hampshire primary.

New Hampshire is often seen as the king-maker state, but in the last two open primary elections, eventual winners Bill Clinton and George W. Bush both lost in the Granite State. I think South Carolina will be the most important state this time around. If a candidate does reasonably well in the first three states and wins in South Carolina, they should have the momentum going into Super Duper Tuesday (Feb. 5).

Resources

Television advertising this early is probably not very effective. Those people who are paying attention, read newspapers, visit campaign websites, etc. and are unlikely to be swayed by tv ads.

Those who are not paying attention are the classic last-minute decision-makers. They are not making the effort to register anything on their mental hard drives.

When the election nears and they have to make a decision they will begin focusing on the candidates.

Television ads now are probably mainly to appease poll-watchers among Obama's supporters, especially the big contributors. This is unfortunate because it's expensive to change poll numbers with tv ads. You want to hit the last minute folk when they are in the decision-making process, not now months before Christmas. But then again, the Iowa caucus is so close after the holidays that it becomes confusing when to advertise.

Do you message Iowa voters with "seasons greetings" type ads?

Michigan and Florida

To add to the confusion, the states of Michigan and Florida have moved their polls up before Feb. 5.

These are states with large delegations and obviously the campaign cannot ignore them. However, at the same time the Democratic National Convention has been threatening not to recognize Florida's delegates if they don't move their primary back.

So you also don't want to get burned by committing too much in these states. Probably a safe plan is to take them as Super Duper states as they may eventually reschedule their voting back to Feb. 5.

A good campaign strategy in my view would be to budget enough money to do well in the first three states culminating in a victory in South Carolina. You would want to have enough money left over to at least keep your offices running until Super Duper Tuesday. There is only about a week to raise money and buy ads between South Carolina and Feb. 5.

Issues

Obama's key strategic issues are the Iraq War and the environment.

He is locked in a tight race with Hillary Clinton in wooing high technology voters. He also does well among people in higher education, although Clinton is attracting the teachers' unions.

The issues that seem to clearly offer the best hope for distinguishing himself from the other candidates is his consistent opposition to the Iraq War, and his general favorable position among environmental voters.

In my view, he needs to work this base of support more than trying to reach out in other directions. Not that he can't reach out, but a campaign needs to focus on key issues and keep repeating them to drive their points home.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Carrington (2007-10-22 15:15:00)

It's interesting; my experience is that Obama hasn't gotten all that much traction amongst 'green' voters, this in spite of his high LCV rating.

Probably part of the problem is that Bush II made Clinton I look good – something of an accomplishment – and greens, unlike peaceniks, don't have a specific Clinton vote to call the Clinton record into question..

I'm not sure what is going on with this, but it seems like an area where the campaign could make significant gains.

Mark (2008-06-18 11:52:00)

Regardless of the critiques flying around out there, Obama's campaign has clearly been able to reach voters on all levels. His ability to inspire citizens on all levels is unlike anything we've seen before.

Take for example the following he has online. Across all kinds of social networks, blogs, forums, news websites, Barack Obama has consistently had the strongest following, even since back in June. Its displayed here, in this study done by an internet consulting company www.spartaninternet.com/2008

As you can see, Barack is also beating McCain in this arena. This study predicted that Obama would get the nomination, who's to say it won't do the same with the presidency?

Anonymous (2008-07-05 21:19:00)

glad Barack didn't follow your advice to save just enough money for the Feb 5th Super Tues... I guess Hillary did though. Hindsight is always 2020

albie (2008-08-25 18:18:00)

obama is all talk.. the convention is week

Richard (2008-09-03 15:58:00)

I've contacted Wikipedia and I'm changing the name of this disease to Obamaism:

The term is derived from the Greek myth of Narcissus. Narcissus was a handsome Greek youth who rejected the desperate advances of the nymph Echo. As punishment, he was doomed to fall in love with his own reflection in a pool of water. Unable to consummate his love, Narcissus pined away and changed into the flower that bears his name, the narcissus.

James (2008-09-11 05:14:00)

Stay on the Republicans – everyone can relate to their miserable track record and the pain it's caused. Here's the way to go on a campaign ad that delivers the knock out blow, linking McCain and the Republican party:

First, chronicle the miserable Republican record using compelling images (lines of people filing for unemployment, the floor of the NYSE in turmoil, the billboard showing the national debt total and counting, explosions in Iraq and Afganistan, Republicans in Congress arguing with each other, etc.) and commentary that essentially pleads for "no more". Next, follow these images and commentary with a black screen that fades in the white words: "No More Republican Pain" then, "No on John McCain". With music, this slogan even has the potential as a jingle – and we all know how powerful a jingle can be. Or it could also be a chant... You get the idea. Essentially, Obama has to quit defending and instead, in a simple straight-forward way, bring home the devastation wrought by a Republican administration the last eight years – the pain – the deep down, visceral pain that even Republicans have felt. Make McCain defend the Republicans – his campaign will die trying.

natto (2008-09-15 18:33:00)

Obama needs to keep focusing on the economy and relate the Mc Cain strategy to further worsening of the situation. The middle class needs breaks. As far as the surge this was not the main cause for the change in fortunes but it was the difference in approach in terms of reaching agreements with Sunni groups and their split with Al Queda in Iraq. This came after more than 4000 have lost their lives.

I get the impression that President Bush never understood the significance of the position of the leader of the free world and

so does Mc Cain.

I call them John Bush and George Mc Cain because they can use each other name. They are the same.

Obama and Residual Troops (2007-10-20 13:26)

On another part of the net there was a discussion about how many residual troops, Barack Obama would leave in Iraq if elected president.

Sometimes you hear that Obama will leave thousands or even tens of thousands of troops, but on repeated occasions he has stated that he doesn't want to get into "precise numbers" until consultations with ground-level military advisers. He's also said he doesn't support any permanent military bases but does plan to keep the embassy open and U.S. civilians safe. He also wants to possibly continue anti-terrorism operations there.

After listening to the exchanges for months, I've come up with my own views. I'm no military expert, but did serve in the military and have stayed at the Holiday Inn on several occasions.

I don't think Obama can say he is removing all troops and continue anything but intelligence service-level anti-terrorism operations in Iraq. Any type of military operation on Iraqi soil will create the same problems we see today. Indeed, there's nothing needed more than a reinforced detachment of the ordinary Marine guards for the embassy. Now, my view is not too much different than that of Gov. Bill Richardson on this issue:

Leave Marine guards at the embassy, but nothing too unsimilar to what is seen at other embassies. Some degree of reinforcement is justified.

Station rapid emergency response forces in Kuwait and in at least one battle carrier group that is always offshore in the Persian Gulf. Aircraft from these forces can fly over Iraq but not engage in military activity except in certain emergency cases i.e., genocide, attack on embassy, certain types of special requests by Iraqi government, etc.

The rapid response force would have the ability to fully evacuate U.S. embassy and civilian personnel if needed.

An international force of peace-keepers from Muslim nations would replace U.S. forces partially with the express purpose of protecting foreign embassies and civilians, and monitoring against genocide.

Significant quantities of U.S. military stores and equipment in Iraq would be turned over to Iraqi forces and the international peace-keepers allowing a quicker pullout and also increasing Iraqi capability. Training of Iraqi personnel would continue.

A portion of the savings from winding down military operations in Iraq will be used to further bolster the security and economy of Iraq and promote stability.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-10-20 21:41)

Barack Obama addresses Latino Dropout Rate in East LA (2007-10-21 07:30)

Talking to young people and parents at an East Los Angeles high school, Barack Obama called for a comprehensive plan to tackle the Latino dropout rate.

"When I'm President, we'll give our kids everything they need to have a fighting chance," said Obama at the high school on which the movie "Stand and Deliver" was based. "Let's not pass a law called No Child Left Behind and then leave the money behind. Let's rebuild our crumbling schools and recruit an army of new teachers because what makes the most difference in any child's education is the person standing at the front of the classroom. And we also have to make sure that every child who wants to learn English has the resources to learn English. And that any child who comes here and studies here and does well in school has the same chance to attend a public college as anyone else."

Obama said he would push a middle school investment bill to help lower the Latino dropout rate. The Illinois senator also mentioned plans to help alleviate urban poverty.

Barack Obama at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles from barackobama.com





Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2010-02-17 16:43:31)

You have really great taste on catch article titles, even when you are not interested in this topic you push to read it

Anonymous (2010-03-12 17:10:16)

Very shorts, simple and easy to understand, bet some more comments from your side would be great

Anonymous (2010-07-03 23:37:54)

Not bad article, but I really miss that you didn't express your opinion, but ok you just have different approach

Obama Game Plan (2007-10-21 09:09)

One observer of Barack Obama 's campaigns in Illinois, and of his strategist David Axelrod, believes that the

Obama game plan involves a big push in the late going.

In his Senate primary race, Obama surged ahead in the last few months. Presumably then, the campaign would be holding back some key ammunition for use at the last minute.

Stealth plans of this type are quite commonly used by underdog candidates. There could be some important endorsements, contributions, ads, etc. in storage for a late assault just before the Iowa caucuses. According to this mode of thinking, Hillary Clinton's "inevitability" is not such a bad thing. In fact, it contributes to the environment that this type of game plan tries to create.

Often a stealth plan will have some "dirt" that is unloaded at the last second giving the opposition minimum time to respond. Obama's camp has disavowed any kinds of personal mudslinging, but possibly they could have some bombs that are relevant and fair game for a electoral campaign. Basically anything that has do with a candidate's public

record and service is considered vital information for the electorate.

Of course, stealth means keeping things secret, working quietly to build up the apparatus needed to execute the "big push."

There may be some questions over whether such an Obama game plan would work in a national election were such great resources are needed to do anything. Obama's handlers are working one state at a time, so the first goal would be to make it work in Iowa. But then will there be more surprises for the other three early states, and for Super Tuesday?

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-04-17 15:03:00)

I have been A Barack Obama fan from the start of this whole primary mess and until last night's debate, I could go along with most everything Barack has done. Now however, my opinion of him as a candidate in a national race for the presidency, has slipped somewhat. Why did it take him 50 minutes of talking about REv Wright, the "Bitter" comment, etc....before deflecting the debate to things that matter.

Charlie Gibson, George S., and Hillary had him totally on the ropes all night and would appreciate it if someone on his advisory staff would tell him its OK to push back a little. ALSO give him some training in avoiding noticeably long pauses and have him stay away from the "UHS", "ERRS", and "UHMS". It has him coming across as either uninformed or just plain slow.

Anotherafrican (2008-09-07 16:57:00)

Are the 3 Doing some Serious Strategic Planning?

I think Obama's capaign is in serious trouble and if the three top people Barack Hillary and Joe are not meeting in serious caucus, they should be.

May I suggest a strategy?

I recommend that they swallow their pride and consider Joe resigning in favor of Hillary as the VP. Joe can immediately be appointed to the job he is most qualified for - Secretary of State in the new Obama government. Hillary will be able to win back all her supporters who have already decided, or are seriously considering voting for the McCain/Palen ticket. This is the only way the Dems can be assured of winning the votes needed to occupy the White House. Now, it's not going to be easy to do this for either Joe or Barack, but if they are sincere about putting the country first, this is the answer.

Anotherafrican (2008-09-07 17:02:00)

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South Carolina for Barack Obama Beauty & Barber Shop Program (2007-10-21 20:14)

The Obama campaign has launched a creative grassroots effort in South Carolina called the Beauty and Barbershops

South Carolina for Barack Obama Beauty & Barber Shop Program

When Barack Obama first came to Chicago, he didn't know a soul. One of the first places he found a sense of community was in a small barber shop on Chicago's South Side, and he's been going there ever since. Recently he found a similar sense of community when he visited Emerson's barbershop in Marion, SC.

Beauty and Barbershops are where communities come together and they're where we know Barack's message of hope and change can really grow.

But to make that happen, to get the conversation going about Barack in your local beauty and barber-shops, we need your help.

BarackObama.com has a new feature know as My Neighborhood that allows users to bring up bloggers, events, people, groups, etc. in their own local area.

We should look for pages on barackobama.com focused on other groups like seniors, Asian Pacific Islanders, etc. fairly soon, I would hope.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama launches new ad in New Hampshire (2007-10-22 09:03)

Barack Obama has a new TV ad rolling out in New Hampshire that focuses on Democrats's "conventional thinking." The new 30-second ad is titled "Conventional" features Obama saying that he will talk to both friends and foes alike. [EMBED]

The spot highlights differences between Obama and Hillary Clinton and John Edwards in negotiating with states like Iran, Syria and North Korea. Recently, the Illinois senator has also spoke out against a Senate vote recognizing Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization. Clinton voted for the legislation.

Can Oprah make you vote for Obama?

A USA Today article examines whether television superstar Oprah Winfrey's endorsement will help Barack Obama get elected president.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Deval Patrick to endorse Obama at Boston Rally (2007-10-22 12:50)

Gov. Deval Patrick will formally endorse Sen. Barack Obama at a free rally starting at 6:30 pm on Boston Common.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama fans (2007-10-22 17:01)

Obama fans (2007-10-22 17:01)

Campaigns pushing ground campaigns (2007-10-22 19:46)

The top-tier Democratic candidates are revving up their ground campaigns as the primary is not less than three months away.

Hillary Clinton is doing a bus tour through Iowa and also registering volunteers to commit to a million hours of volunteer work.

John Edwards' campaign has "Road Trip for One America" encouraging volunteers to travel to key early states like Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Barack Obama is traveling across the country as part of the "Countdown for Change" drive holding rallies that double as grassroots fundraisers. Obama supporters are trained in "Camp Obama" campaigning sessions.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Letter: John Tanner must be removed (2007-10-22 22:17)

David Plouffe of the Obama campaign sent out an email urging supporters to send letters calling for the firing of John Tanner, the voting rights chief who made the preposterous statements about minority voters. Barack has already called for Tanner to be sacked.

John Tanner must be removed from his position as the nation's top voting rights official.

His recent comments that elderly minority voters are not disenfranchised by photo ID requirements because "they die first" reveals an obvious disregard for their voting rights.

Tanner's record as voting rights chief demonstrates that same disregard. Join Barack in sending a letter to the Attorney General's office demanding that he be replaced.

BarackObama.com/JohnTannerMustGo



Dear Paul,

This is pretty unbelievable.

John Tanner, the top ranking voting rights official at the Justice Department, was caught on video claiming that photo ID requirements do not disproportionately disenfranchise minority voters because: **"Our society is such that minorities don't become elderly the way white people do; they die first."**

He went on to argue, irrationally, that these requirements actually benefit minorities because: **"Anything that disproportionately impacts the elderly has the opposite impact on minorities."**

Barack sent a letter to Acting Attorney General Peter D. Keisler last week demanding that John Tanner be removed from his position – but the Justice Department needs to hear from you as well. The more they hear from people like you, the more pressure they will feel to do the right thing.

Send a message to the Attorney General's office and tell him to replace Tanner immediately:

<http://Action.BarackObama.com/JohnTannerMustGo>

As absurd and wrong-headed as Tanner's remarks were, they are less surprising in the context of his record as voting rights chief.

Tanner has been an outspoken advocate for photo ID requirements for voters, going so far as to overrule the recommendations of Justice Department lawyers in order to support a controversial photo ID requirement in Georgia .

The Georgia law has been repeatedly compared to a poll tax. In 2005, Barack Obama spoke out against this law, noting that, "in our democracy, the goal should be to encourage eligible voters to vote, not to create new barriers to make it more difficult for them to exercise their most basic right." Barack also introduced

a resolution in response to Tanner's decision to approve the Georgia law, expressing his belief that any law requiring a photo ID to vote would put an undue burden on voters.

Numerous studies show that photo ID requirements have a discriminatory impact on African American and other minority voters. Yet, in public statements like his October 5th remarks, Tanner continues to justify them with faulty logic. And it adds insult to injury to use tragic discrepancies in life expectancies for African Americans as justification for policies that would further disenfranchise them.

The situation is clear. **John Tanner has an obvious disregard for the voting rights of minorities and should not be in charge of protecting them.**

John Tanner must go. Join Barack in demanding that he be removed from his position immediately:

<http://Action.BarackObama.com/JohnTannerMustGo>

From the beginning, our campaign has been about increasing the number of Americans who are engaged in the political process. We took our lead from Barack's days as a community organizer and built a network of hundreds of thousands of supporters nationwide, many of whom are getting involved in politics for the first time.

John Tanner and others like him have been appointed to positions of power in the Bush administration with the specific intent of limiting participation in ways that benefit the Republican Party. It's time to turn the page on that kind of politics.

All we demand – and all that any reasonable person of either party should demand – is that voting rules be fair and enforced equally, regardless of race.

John Tanner has demonstrated time and again that he has other things in mind. His recent comments are the last straw – he must go:

<http://Action.BarackObama.com/JohnTannerMustGo>

Thank you,

David

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America



Paid for by Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama on the Issues (2007-10-23 07:17)

Obama on Foreign Policy Issues

- Immediate pullout from Iraq on taking office, one to two brigades a month. Opposed war from start.
- No permanent bases in Iraq but embassy presence and unspecified number of residual troops.
- Focus on Afghanistan and possibly Pakistan in combating terror.
- Opposed legislation labeling Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, a move he viewed as a possibly prelude to military action. Believes diplomacy and economic sanctions are needed to address Iranian nuclear program. Has not ruled out military action.
- Supports Israel but has problems with that country's policy.
- Considers China a "competitor."
- Supports 6-way talks in North Korea.

Obama on Free Trade Issues

- Voted yes on Peru and Oman free trade pacts, but no on Central American pact.
- Supports reform of NAFTA.
- Insists on labor and human rights standards in China trade.
- Wants to reinvest in communities hit by outsourcing. Discourages outsourcing.

Obama on Immigration Issues

- Wants better patrolling of borders
- Supports welfare and Medicaid for immigrants.
- Wants undocumented immigrants to have opportunity to earn citizenship.
- Supports a guest worker program.

Obama on Civil Rights Issues

- Supports affirmative action.
- Opposes gay marriage; supports civil unions with full rights. Opposed constitutional ban on gay marriage.
- Wants to close Guantanamo and restore right of habeus corpus.
- Voted no on Patriot Act wiretapping.
- Voted yes on reauthorizing Patriot Act.

Obama on Job Issues

- Wants to end tax breaks for companies that outsource.
- Make minimum wage a living wage.
- Supports unions and organized labor.
- Does not believe tax cuts for rich create jobs.
- Has detailed plan for improving urban and rural development.

Obama on Healthcare Issues

- Supports "universal" health care system, but without automatic coverage.
- Wants U.S. to lead in global fight against AIDS.
- Has worked on reform of Medicare.

Obama on Environmental Issues

- Wants greater use of biofuels.
- Cut dependence on foreign oil.
- Open to liquid coal if it can be proven to be less polluting than petroleum.
- Open to nuclear power if issues of waste disposal, security, etc. can be managed.
- Supports significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

For more, see Barack Obama on the Issues.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-03-18 12:40:00)

I would like to know why Mr. Obama refuses to respond to direct questions, BEFORE he has a Speech or answer written by someone else at his disposal????

James (2008-03-18 20:44:00)

Guys, it is scary to have Obama particularly in this situation of grave consequences facing our country.

The War,

The Economy,

The Social Security,

The HealthCare,

The Job market,

The Middle Class

Problems so serious needs someone with experience.

Now this guy does not have a long history and he wants to change the world (US to start with).

He is a man of a race. Black man has never been a President (Not to say he is racial) it adds one more issue to above mentioned list.

The Race.

I know the race, religion and caste issues since I have moderated few elections in the East and they are ugly.

A person who becomes a President is not a one man show. If he tries to be that he looks like Bush who is to the right and this guy Obama is to the left.

A government is a big machine made of millions of people who are going to be there even when the Presidents and Govt. change. A senate and a house which change but not totally. The people are still same.

If you have someone so ideological but at the same time having no networking with government 'machinary' how in the hell can he bring change other than VeTO. WE have seen this more so often these days.

No matter how you look at it this is a dangerous combination of an in-experienced political figure raised to the alter by sheer disappointment for the current administration.

The mob mentality in US politics is the last straw on camels back so to say.

If we get someone with these credentials it would be a disaster I could see the same American people being more angry than they are now when the war is right now outside the US.

This man can bring this war within us. The reason is simple we cannot change things overnight and that is what he is trying to say. He says it is not going to happen overnight but gives a feeling it might.

There is an attribute of socialism in his speech which can further hurt our structure.

Now let me be clear, there is nothing that he says is wrong.

But the fact is it is not that simple. Bush would do it if it was so and get his 4 generations guaranteed Presidents of the USA.

This man Barack may have a good character, notion, and good intentions but what he is promising is to naive and is dangerously day dreaming.

He is taking about change which needs to start but at the grass roots in local govt, senate, and house and than at the center.

He by far needs more time, more experience and more to show us all of us that he can deliver. If he has the stuff he would come back.

But even if he is right and I am wrong right. If we get him the Presidency it would be the last Presidency that would shatter the USA from what it used to be.

God Bless US ALL

Independent (2008-05-03 16:40:00)

I was an Obama supporter until I learned more. He is talking about gimmicks to win an election, well, Obama asked to put signs up at the fuel pumps in his Illinois home senate district stating, "Senator Obama reduced your gasoline prices" after voting for a gas tax suspension in his home state of Illinois. (source: Illinois senate transcript 4/15/2000)

<http://www.ilga.gov/senate/transcripts/strans91/ST041500.pdf> pg 80-81

Anonymous (2008-06-17 22:06:00)

Hmmm! Right experience like GWB and Dick Cheney. Who got us in this war? Who opposed the war? Who has the experience? Think this is rocket science? Think again! How much is this war costing YOU, the American Tax Payer? And the Republicans say they are "Fiscally Conservative"? You're kidding right? Are Americans that easily fooled? hink again!

Rob Dodd (2008-07-09 21:55:00)

My hope has soared during the past year with the prospect of having a new administration under Senator Obama.

However on this day with the passage of the FISA bill I am deeply disappointed in his disregard for the Constitution of the United States which he swore to defend and uphold. No matter which excuse is given it is wrong to spy on anyone without a proper warrant and probable cause. See the Fourth Amendment.

I spent 14 year hardworking years in the military to uphold the constitution and freedoms to make elections like this are possible. I feel betrayed and hurt I am reconsidering my rationale to vote for Senator Obama.

Senator, please prove me wrong.

Anonymous (2008-07-18 09:35:00)

Obama is a fool who wants to ruin america he wants to raise taxes for people who make over 200,000 .But also wants to repeal the bush tax cuts which gives people under 200,000 a year a 2,500 tax cut.He says he will give us low income familys a 1,000 tax cut well if he becomes president low income fanilys will lose 1,500 dollars a year so he is in fact raising the taxes on every single tax bracket wake the hecll up and get educated this guy is pissin on your heads and tryin to say its rain.

Furthermore everytime He brings up a social problem he turns it into a black thing like black fathers need to take care of there kids and not run off well look Obama white ,mexican and every other race has dead beat fathers that dont take care of there kids.

This guy didnt even get involved heavily into the black community until he was 26 years old out of college and out of his white moms familys home so if anything this guy is a spoiled white boy who thinks he is black now and thatr he has been some civil rights activist forever please Oppybama.

Andrew V (2008-08-28 16:43:00)

On August 28th, 2008 Mr. Obama shouted to the enthusiastic audience that he would return America to being the world's super power. Is it the unalienable right of an American presidential campaigner to claim the right of world's super power? Would the west react with the same blind and effusive enthusiasm if the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel announced that her country will be the world's super next power? Will the world welcome a decision by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that China is assuming the mantle of world policeman? Why do such flagrant, egotistical and self-assuming proclamations by North American leaders go unchallenged when similar comments by other political leaders would have the UN in a blind panic?

Anonymous (2008-10-29 02:23:00)

Well, the big day is here.

The big day when Obama, in concert, literally, with the Leftist Media, tries to make his case for why we should vote for him.

He still expects so many of us to believe him, even after him being one of the biggest LIARS, on the face of this planet, in ALL of human history.

Now that there's been uncovered, yet ANOTHER, of his Blatant and Obvious examples of his root and core Socialist ideological beliefs, and no doubt why they will NOT reveal his writings from his College / University years, he has more 'splaining to do.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he has, from at least 2001 or before, held the beliefs, as he was eager to explain in the 2001 radio interview, in which he SAID there should be MORE Redistribution (of wealth), and the SUPREME COURT (probably other courts too) SHOULD be MORE involved. And, in CONTRADICTION to the Constitution, AND he STILL expects us to NOT think he IS a Socialist? Not to mention, him apparently being hell bent on our Constitution NOT being followed, which he MUST take an Oath TO Uphold and Protect. HOW and WHY would / could, We The People, believe ANY oath HE would take, under ANY circumstances?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

SO, just as has been asked in many ways, in cross examinations, and by those who

REALLY want to know, was he LYING, LYING, LYING THEN, or, is he LYING, LYING, LYING Now? Or, is he just a CONSTANT Psychopathic Lying Sociopath? In ANY case, Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES. Or, BOTH? It sure looks like it, more, and more, and more.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible, that 20 years in front of a "mentor" / Wright, was not enough for Obama to KNOW what Wright was all about, and hear and see the divisive anger and rage, which was demonstrated a number of times in sermons?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he is supposedly so well educated from his college and university years, that he is apparently NOT well read enough, or NOT in touch with RECENT American History, that he has no clue of who Ayers was?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he has any REAL sense of politics, or the REAL world around him, how is it that when he started to get involved with Ayers, and ESPECIALLY Ayers involved in Obama's political career, that Obama did NOT properly do research about Ayers, to make sure of who or what he was?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he was so involved with ACORN, but he did NOT apparently also know, or care about, the following:

(From <http://pajamasmedia.com/>)

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is a community-based organization that advocates for low and moderate income families founded in 1970 by Wade Rathke and Gary Delgado. Rathke, one of the most powerful hard-Left activists in America, is a former member of a radical 1960s group, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The Weathermen terrorist group split off from the SDS in 1969. And,

Although the organization prides itself for its registration efforts, it also has a long history of scandal. In the state of Missouri in 1986, 12 ACORN members were convicted of voter fraud. But that case was not an isolated incident in the state. In December 2004, in St. Louis, six volunteers pleaded guilty of dozens of election law violations for filling out registration cards with names of dead people and other bogus information. Authorities launched an earlier investigation after noticing that among the new voters was longtime St. Louis alderman Albert "Red" Villa, who died in 1990. The volunteers worked for "Operation Big Vote" — a branch of ACORN — in St. Louis.

On February 10, 2005, Nonaresa Montgomery, a paid worker who ran Operation Big Vote during the run-up to the 2001 mayoral primary, was found guilty of vote fraud. Montgomery hired about 30 workers to do fraudulent voter-registration canvassing. Instead of knocking on doors, the volunteers sat at a St. Louis fast food restaurant and wrote out names and information from an outdated voter list. About 1,500 fraudulent voter registration cards were turned in.

In October 2006, St. Louis election officials discovered at least 1,492 "potentially fraudulent" voter registration cards. They were all turned in by ACORN volunteers.

In November 2006, 20,000 to 35,000 questionable voter registration forms were turned in by ACORN officials in Missouri. Most all of these were from St. Louis and Kansas City areas, where ACORN purportedly sought to help empower the "disenfranchised" minorities living there. But the ACORN workers weren't just told to register new voters. The workers admitted on camera that they were coached to tell registrants to vote for Democrat Claire McCaskill.

In 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri, four ACORN employees were indicted for fraud. In April of this year eight ACORN employees in St. Louis city and county pleaded guilty to federal election fraud for submitting bogus

voter registrations.

And, that was just Missouri.

(The whole story: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-complete-guide-to-acorn-voter-fraud/>)

So, since Obama is supposedly so smart, HOW can it be he did NOT know ANY of this FRAUD history of ACORN?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he is supposedly so smart, politically, or otherwise, HOW is it, he did not make sure of the ethicalness of his relationship and deals with Rezko? WHY did Obama not realize the potential, for even the appearance of scandal, let alone the ACTUAL deals we're now aware of? Maybe because it's so accepted in Chicago / Illinois corrupt street thug politics?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he has ANY amount of understanding of economics, or our country's financial mechanisms, he could NOT see the potential for disaster, with the KNOWN mismanagement, CORRUPTION, and artificial housing market success, being perpetrated by, and because of, Fannie, Freddie, and BAD legislation and requirements, for banks to make HIGH risk mortgages? Maybe because so many DEMOCRATS were ALREADY getting away with it.

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he had ANY inkling of Foreign Policy, or even reality in general, that it would be OK, to sit down with a KNOWN adversary, of ANY degree, to discuss, and TO NEGOTIATE, almost anything, would be done with NO preconditions, AND that ANY one, with an ounce of IQ, would ANNOUNCE ahead of time, their strategy, like, NO preconditions?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, . . . , well, I guess the list could go on and on. And, I probably have missed some things in my above chronology.

It all just comes down to this,

Obama is either sooooo absolutely, totally, INCOMPETENT, or, he just, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES.

In EITHER case he WILL be one of the WORST presidents we'd EVER have.

Maybe that won't happen.

Dalene (2009-02-26 23:01:00)

All About Children asks...There is a situation here in Texas. This is regarding two families. One is in the middle of getting custody of their son's daughter. His wife already has a son who is half black which her partents are getting custody of him. They will continue to get state help with taking care of this little boy, but the other grandparents of the all white baby will not receive any state help once they get custody because she is white. I feel this is rascist and unfare for people who are trying to do the right thing by taking on this grandchild. Is this fare in your mind Mr. Pesident, isn't there anything that can be done to change this unfare and uncaring situation?February 26, 2009

Anonymous (2009-05-06 16:22:00)

Impeach Obama. People actually supported you till you got in office. What a joke

Anonymous (2009-05-06 16:26:00)

Were you born in US or Africa? That is the answer we all want to know. You have never answered the question. Why is that? Just because the supreme court did not want top go to trial. HHHHMMMM that is crap. Tell us Obama, Tell us

Funny Bush-Clinton dynasty video (2007-10-23 14:25)

Here is an hilarious video by UndergroundObama asking whether we're ready for 36 straight years of Bush-Clinton dynasty.

[EMBED]

Obama has also released a new video ad called "Choices" airing in New Hampshire that highlights his choice to work as a community organizer as a young college graduate.

Barack is currently leading the Democracy for America straw poll when write-in candidate Al Gore is taken out of the picture. He's just barely ahead of John Edwards though:

Total Votes: 74708 as of Tue, 23 Oct 2007 17:40:43 -0400 **Candidate Votes %**

Al Gore (write in)	22542	30.17 %	✕
Barack Obama	16304	21.82 %	✕
John Edwards	13349	17.87 %	✕
Dennis Kucinich	12934	17.31 %	✕
Hillary Clinton	3864	5.17 %	✕
Bill Richardson	2100	2.81 %	✕
Other	1558	2.09 %	✕
Joe Biden	828	1.11 %	✕
Mike Gravel	660	0.88 %	✕
Christopher Dodd	569	0.76 %	✕

VOTING IS STILL OPEN!! Polls close at midnight on November 5th, 2007. Cast your vote now at <http://www.DemocracyforAmerica.com/PulsePoll>

If Al Gore doesn't run: Now the live stats for candidates who have announced their candidacy **Candidate Votes %**

Barack Obama	20394	26.98 %	✕
John Edwards	20100	26.59 %	✕
Dennis Kucinich	16236	21.48 %	✕
Hillary Clinton	6979	9.23 %	✕
Bill Richardson	3202	4.24 %	✕
Joe Biden	1727	2.28 %	✕
Christopher Dodd	1465	1.94 %	✕
Mike Gravel	878	1.16 %	✕

This chart counts the second choice of DFA members who wrote Al Gore in for their first choice. Results updated hourly.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Patrick endorses Obama before crowd of 9,500 (2007-10-23 20:49)

A crowd of 9,500 cheered on as Gov. Deval Patrick publicly endorsed Barack Obama on Boston Common Tuesday.



(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Patrick said of Obama in his introduction:

For once, I want a campaign that's not about the candidate, but about us.

Not about a resumé, but about character. Not about connections or convenience, but about conviction. Not about smearing the competition, but about lifting us all up. Not about the right and the left, but about right and wrong. Not about yesterday, but about tomorrow.

I don't care whether the next president has experience in the White House. I care whether he understands life in your house.

I don't care whether the next president has already met foreign heads of state. I care whether he knows something about how people live and think in distant cities and villages and can remember that our actions affect them, too.

I don't care whether the next president is the first black president or the first woman president or the first whatever, to tell you the truth. I care that the next president has moral courage, a political backbone, the humility to admit what he doesn't know, and the wisdom to learn from others.

In Iowa, the Obama campaign sent out mailers contrasting his position on Iran with that of Hillary Clinton.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Obama gets interesting endorsements (2007-10-24 10:35)

Sen. Barack Obama received some unusual endorsements of late from a world champion boxer and Iowa's "Butter Cow Lady."

Norma "Duffy" Lyon, known for her life-sized cow sculptures made of butter, is supporting Barack and she's featured in radio ads supporting the senator in Iowa.

"It's the first time I've done this," said Lyon. "He's my candidate and I want to see him do well."

Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., a world champion who also was recently featured on the TV hit "Dancing with the Stars," has also lent his name to Obama.

The boxer has had some trouble with the law and a fiery temper, but an Obama spokesperson said that Mayweather has paid for his mistakes.

Mayweather is a Las Vegas resident and will be helping out with the Nevada campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama asks supporters to help in California (2007-10-24 15:40)

Barack Obama released this statement on the fires in California:

"Our nation's attention is turned to the fires engulfing Southern California for the fourth straight day, as hundreds of thousands flee their homes and the smoke threatens the health of others. Michelle and I send our thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims, and we honor the brave firefighters who are risking their lives to contain the fires."

"We must employ all federal resources to fight these fires, care for the displaced, and help communities rebuild from the ashes."

"In times like these, Americans stand firm, and we stand together. There have been incredible acts of bravery and generosity over the past four days, as Californians have pitched in to help their neighbors. I have asked my supporters in California to take time out from campaigning this weekend to assist the relief efforts, and I'm encouraging all Americans to take action to help those in need."

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama and Asian Pacific Americans (2007-10-25 07:31)

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) can make a difference in at least three big states – Nevada, California, New York and Washington. Of course, they are very powerful in Hawai'i, a state though sends only a few delegates to the convention.

California has 13 percent of its population that is APIA, and Nevada about 7 percent, but APIA growth in Nevada has been so explosive its hard to tell what the real numbers are. About 6.8 percent of New Yorkers are APIA.

APIA voters have been growing faster than the population in general and trending strongly Democratic. One poll, for example, showed about 74 percent of APIA voters favored Kerry-Edwards in 2004 with nearly 40 percent of those first-time voters.

Since 1992, when most APIAs supported Republicans, the percentage that favor Democrats has risen from 30 percent to more than 60 percent in 2004 according to a New York Times study.

The population is economically prosperous and has becoming increasingly politically involved over the last decade. Hillary Clinton has done much work in securing APIA support nationwide. Barack Obama definitely is trailing in this area.

In California, for example, where APIAs could potentially make up to 20 percent or more of the Democratic primary vote depending on turnout and other factors, Clinton has organized an impressive committee of APIA supporters.

I haven't heard of a similar committee in the state from Obama's camp yet.

Obama: Role for Gore offered (2007-10-25 10:16)

Barack Obama said there could be a key slot in his administration for Al Gore when asked if he would ask him to run as his vice president.

Obama though joked, "I will also be honest with you: having won the Nobel Peace Prize and an Oscar, being vice president again would probably be a step down for him."

Fielding another question about whether he would expect "swift boat" like attacks should he become the nominee, Obama replied:

"I have no doubt there will be some of that — trying to make me into this foreign, odd, clearly black person and to scare people,. When people try to Swift Boat you, you have to respond forcefully, you have to respond immediately and you have to respond truthfully. ... We are prepared for whatever they will throw at us."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wins mock presidential election (2007-10-25 15:39)

Sen. Barack Obama has won the early primaries and "Super Tuesday" in Western Illinois University's mock presidential election.

The event is expected to be the largest most complex simulated election ever held at a college campus.

Obama won the Democratic primaries by a margin of 3 to 1, receiving 1,180 delegates to Hillary Rodham Clinton's 311 and John Edwards's 302. The process continues tonight with national party conventions.

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama speaks about the challenges of keeping her family grounded during the presidential campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



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Barack Obama gets two new endorsements (2007-10-26 16:28)

The Wisconsin SEIU labor organization publicly endorsed Barack Obama for president today, and in Ohio, Columbus mayor Mike Coleman also voiced his support for the Illinois senator.

Wisconsin SEIU State Council President Dian Palmer cited in a press release Obama's "commitment to expanding access to affordable health care and to protecting workers' rights." The union has a little more than 15,000 members.

Obama has already received the endorsements of the Illinois and Missouri-Kansas SEIUs.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Obama (2007-10-27 21:45)

✕ Barack Obama announced the formation of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders National Leadership Council as part of his campaign today.

A new group called Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Obama is also live now on barackobama.com.

Many of the senator's AAPI supporters are from Hawai'i where he was born and grew up.

His sister Maya, brother-in-law Konrad Ng and niece still live in Honolulu.

Obama Announces Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders National Leadership Council

by Eugene Kang

Friday, October 26, 2007 at 11:38 AM

Continuing to expand on the historic grassroots campaign to bring fundamental change to Washington and our politics, the Obama for America campaign today announced its Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders National Leadership Council. This Leadership Council consists of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders leaders and activists from across the nation, representing every sector of our society, including community, nonprofit, entertainment, business, government, law, academia and media.

"I am proud of the strong personal ties I have had with the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders communities that go back to my birth, and I am humbled to have the widespread support from these communities in my campaign," said Barack Obama. "Like most Americans, the AAPI community knows that with the great challenges facing our nation today, we need leadership that can unite us to bring change we can believe in."

The Obama campaign also unveiled its Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders website today (<http://aapi.barackobama.com>). This tool will provide Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from across the country the ability to connect with one another and to learn how to educate their friends and neighbors about Obama's record of bringing change to their communities.

Senator Obama was born in Hawaii, a state where Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up a significant portion of the population. As a child of a multi-racial, multi-ethnic family that included Asian Americans, Obama lived in Indonesia, sharing some of the same personal experiences that many Asian immigrants in the United States have also experienced before arriving on these shores.

"My brother is the only candidate with an intimate connection with Asia and the Pacific," says Maya Soetoro-Ng, Obama's sister of Indonesian descent. "Our mother's work and values brought us into contact with a wide range of worlds. The movement of our childhood and adolescence required that we be able to walk between worlds and, in particular, to communicate broadly within Asian and Pacific Islands cultures. Barack understands the values, needs, and expectations that are unique to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

"There hasn't been a presidential candidate who understands the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experience as intuitively as Barack," says Konrad Ng, Obama's brother-in-law of Chinese descent. "I hope that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will recognize this opportunity to support a candidate who can speak to our diverse communities and bring real and beneficial change to our country. It is time that we have someone in the White House who can do it all."

Obama studied and worked alongside strong and diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, and Boston. After college, he moved to Chicago, another city with a large and diverse Asian American population, where he worked as a grassroots organizer, advocating for civil rights and economic fairness.

"Barack Obama has a long track record of promoting policies that are important to the AAPI community. His depth of experience in bridging the many divides combined with his sound judgment is what I believe will make a better America," says Ann Lata Kalayil, Chicago-based AAPI community leader and Co-Chair of the Obama Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Leadership Council.

In state and federal elected offices, he continued to push for legislative policies to protect the rights of immigrants and minorities at the local, state, and national levels. For example, he led the fight in Illinois to identify and end racial profiling and provide health insurance coverage to 150,000 low-income children and parents. And in the U.S. Senate, Obama has been a leader in the bipartisan effort to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

As president, he will continue to chart a better course for all Americans, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders can be assured that Obama will continue to work for these communities, as he has already demonstrated throughout his life. Former New York Solicitor General Preeta Bansal says, "As we try to work to clean up America's image and policy toward the world and its policies at home, I can think of no better leader than Senator Obama, who – in part because who he is and where he came from, but also because of what he believes in – would give America a whole new fresh chance."

Members of the Obama Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders National Leadership Council include (Note: Their affiliation is to be used for identification purposes only):

Nancy Chen, IL, Former APA Outreach Director for the Office of Presidential Personnel (1996 – 1997) and Former Chicago Director for Senator Paul Simon (D – IL) (1991 – 1996); Co-Chair, Obama AAPI National Leadership Council

Ann Lata Kalayil, IL, Former DNC At-large Member and APIA Caucus; Co-Chair, Obama AAPI National Leadership Council

Stanley Toy, CA, Chairman of Los Angeles County Hospital and Healthcare Delivery Commission and President and CEO of TEAM Healthcare; Co-Chair, Obama AAPI National Leadership Council

Preeta Bansal, NY, Former New York State Solicitor General (1999 – 2001) and Partner, Skadden Arps, and Former Counselor, U.S. Department of Justice and Special Counsel, White House (1993 – 1996)

Paul Igasaki, Former Vice Chair and Commissioner, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (1994 – 2002)

Angela Oh, CA, Former Member, President's Initiative on Race (1997 – 1998)

Amy Agbayani, HI, Community Activist and Administrator, University of Hawaii

Anilesh Ahuja, NY, Investment Banker

Tania Ahuja, NY

Della Au Bellatti, HI, State Representative

Som Baccam, IA, Community Activist

Priya Bhatia, IL, Attorney, Goldberg Kohn

Umbreen Bhatti, PA, Attorney

Eric Byler, VA, Activist and Award-winning Filmmaker

C.W. Chan, IL

Wilma Chan, CA, Former Assemblywoman

M. Hasan Chandoo, NY, Businessman

Raazia Chandoo, NY, Artist

Subodh Chandra, OH, Principal, The Chandra Law Firm

Kan Chou, IL, President, Elitegen Corp

Marisa Chun, CA, Partner, Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP

Jerry Clarito, IL, Skokie Park District Commissioner

Jun Choi, NJ, Mayor of Edison

Siddarth Desai, GA, Management Consultant and South Asians for Obama – Atlanta

Selma D'Souza, IL, Attorney

Gautam Dutta, CA, Attorney and Board Member, Asian American Action Fund

Tong-Jen Fu, IL, Former President, Naperville Chinese Association

Ram Gajjala, IL, President, Indo-American Democratic Organization

Kasturi Halder, IL, Professor, Northwestern Medical School

Alamdor Hamdani, Partner, Hamdani & Simon, LLP

Ferial Hamid, NY

Wahid Hamid, NY, Senior Vice President, PepsiCo

Anjana Hansen, IL, Alderman in Evanston

Pakou Hang, MN, Community Activist

Bob Hasegawa, WA, State Representative

Kelly Hu, CA, Actress

Imad Husain, MA, Director of Credit Risk, Enterprise Risk Management, State Street Corporation

Jin, Hip-Hop Artist

Jon Karamatsu, HI, State Representative and House Vice Speaker

Hrishi Karthikeyan, D.C., Attorney and Co-Founder of grassroots South Asians for Obama
 Eddie Kim, CA, Executive Producer, Projekt Newspeak
 Paul Kim, CA, Executive Director, Kollaboration Talent Show
 Ming King, WI, Chairman, Precast Engineering Company
 Ramey Ko, TX, Attorney and Chair of grassroots Asian Americans for Obama
 Ann Kobayashi, HI, Honolulu City Councilmember
 Russell Kokubun, HI, State Senator
 Raja Krishnamoorthi, IL, Deputy Treasurer for Policy and Programs, State of Illinois
 Dave Kumar, D.C., Attorney, Goldberg, Godles, Wiener & Wright
 David Lang, CA, Principal, Lang/Pan/Chan Public Relations
 Russell Leong, CA, Editor, Amerasia Journal UCLA
 Henry Lo, CA, Garvey School Board Vice President
 Monica Macer, CA, Television and Feature Screenwriter
 Michael Magaoay, HI, State Representative and House Majority Whip
 Theresa Mah, IL, Assistant Director and Lecturer, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago and Board Member and Chicago Chapter Coordinator, Asian Pacific Americans for Progress (APAP)
 Zachariah Mampilly, CA, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Vassar College
 Hydra Mendoza, CA, Commissioner, San Francisco Board of Education
 Ken Mok, CA, President of 10 x 10 Entertainment
 Hung Nguyen, D.C., Chair, Asian American Advisory Board and Former President of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans
 Clarence Nishihara, HI, State Senator
 Catherine Park, CA, Chief Operating Officer of Giant Robot
 Jan Pastores, IA, Community Activist
 Anthoni Patel, CA, Writer
 Robert Plang, IA, Community Activist
 Sunil Puri, IL, President, First Rockford
 Rahul Rajkumar, MA, Physician, Brigham and Women's Hospital
 Anita Ramasastry, WA, Law Professor
 Scott Saiki, HI, State Representative
 Norman Sakamoto, HI, State Senator and Senate Majority Whip
 Rahul Sharma, IL, Founder of Funkades
 Pramod Shah, IL, Niles Township Trustee
 Woon-Wah Siu, IL, Attorney, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP
 Mora Mi-ok Stephens, CA, Activist and Award-winning Filmmaker
 Cary Tagawa, HI, Actor
 Christina Tchen, IL, Partner, Skadden Arps
 Vinai Thummalapally, CO, President, Mam-A Inc.

Nancy Tom, IL, Director, Center for Asian Arts and Media, Columbia College

Emme Tomingbang, HI, Television Personality

Glenn Wakai, HI, State Representative

Eddie Wong, CA, Executive Director of the Center for Asian American Media

Martin Wong, Co-Editor, Giant Robot Magazine

Swallow Yan, IA, Business Owner

Janet Yang, CA, Film Producer and Producer, Joy Luck Club

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama news in the early states (2007-10-29 11:28)

Obama for America has a new television ad airing in Iowa as part of their early state strategy.

Click on the graphic below to see a video of the ad that deals with fixing Social Security.

X

In Nevada, the campaign is working to recruit precinct captains for walks, phone-banking and other grassroots work. There is also a Latino radio campaign in the state.



Two television ads are airing in New Hampshire, "Choices " and "Conventional."

X

X

In South Carolina, Obama just finished a gospel concert tour, "Embrace the Change."



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama: Show restraint on Iran (2007-10-29 16:41)

In an interview with the Des Moines Register, Barack Obama urged restraint in dealing with Iran.

"Typically, we have made our biggest blunders when we overreached militarily, and we have had our greatest foreign policy successes ... where we showed restraint," Obama said.

The Illinois senator has recently drawn a sharp contrast between his position on Iran and that of Sen. Hillary Clinton, who recently voted to declare Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization. Many observers see the move as the first step toward military conflict with the Islamic nation.

Barack boogies with Ellen DeGeneres [EMBED] 

IFRAME: <http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1272266643>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



A new Barack Obama in tonight's debate? (2007-10-30 11:35)

Supporters and observers will be watching tonight's MSNBC debate to see if Barack Obama comes out swinging against Hillary Clinton.

Many believe that the time is right for Obama to clearly separate himself from Clinton on certain matters particularly with reference to the Iraq War and Iran.

Although their policies on an Iraq withdrawal look nearly the same, Obama still needs to convince folks he is more believable as an Iraq War opponent.

Obama picked up some more today when John Hutson, Dean of Franklin Pierce Law Center and former Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy endorsed his candidacy.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



All Quiet on Obama Front (2007-10-30 14:56)

According to The New Republic blog, the Obama camp is far from scared of the polls showing Hillary Clinton dominating against a field of hapless wannabes.

Iowa, they say, Iowa is the key.

The early states leading up to South Carolina will be a battle for the progressive camp regardless even if Hillary wins many of these early states.

At some point, probably either Barack Obama or John Edwards, with Bill Richardson having an outside shot, will emerge as the heir apparent.

When and if this happens, the winner will likely start siphoning votes from the other practical progressives very fast.

Then there's that big jello-like glob of voters who don't decide on a candidate until the last minute. They are usually deeply impressed in their thinking by the performance of the candidates in the early states.

Now, losing Iowa alone will not likely sink Hillary's experienced team. However, Obama's handlers believe it could be the start of a multi-stage process leading to her defeat. At the very least, Iowa can set the stage for narrowing down the field to two viable candidates.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Debate reviews (2007-10-31 11:08)

Here is a gleanings of news reviews from last night's debate compiled by Sarah Ramey and Gary Brooks of the official barackobama.com blog:

Associated Press

X

...Barack Obama...sharply challenged Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's candor, consistency and judgment Tuesday in a televised debate that underscored her front-runner status two months before the first presidential primary votes.

Obama, the Illinois senator, began immediately, saying Clinton has changed her positions on the North American Free Trade Agreement, torture policies and the Iraq war. Leadership, he said, does not mean "changing positions whenever it's politically convenient."

Washington Post

X

Sen. Barack Obama...criticized [Hillary Clinton] directly for not releasing her correspondence as first lady. But he kept his cool demeanor, describing her tendency toward secrecy as simply "a problem."

Obama pursued Clinton most pointedly over her White House papers, most of which are still locked away in her husband's presidential library in Little Rock. She said that she had approved the release of the papers, a point that national archivists dispute.

"We have just gone through one of the most secretive administrations in our history, and not releasing, I think, these records at the same time, Hillary, that you're making the claim that this is the basis for your experience, I think, is a problem," Obama said.

Politico

POLITICO

The heart of Clinton's case was that if Republicans hate her, she must be doing something right. But Obama came back sharper.

"Part of the reason Republicans are obsessed with you, Hillary, is I think that's a fight they're very comfortable having," he responded, adding that "what we don't need is another eight years of bickering."



Obama's criticisms were about philosophy and process; about another eight years of polarizing politics; about the approach to the issue, rather than the issue itself. Twice at the end he showed his sense of humor – very effectively.

It is too soon to tell whether Obama sufficiently abandoned his inner McClellan to satisfy some of his allies and pacify his donors. He may not have met the expectations of the press, but those expectations are fairly ethereal. Obama will argue against Clinton on his own terms; he will not throw sound bites at her. He does not lack the fortitude to craft a zinger, he just doesn't, as a matter of course, like to traffic in them – they are too base, too customary, too politics-as-usual for him. There is a reason why Obama only compared Clinton's foreign policy to Bush-Cheney Lite once – he felt he had gone to too far. So – on his own terms, yes, Obama did not temporize and drew strong contrasts with Clinton.

Los Angeles Times

[Bill Clinton], Russert pointed out, has specifically requested the National Archives to delay any such release [of Hillary Clinton's records of her activities as first lady] for several years. "Would you lift that ban?" Russert asked.

"Well, that's not my decision to make...[b]ut certainly we'll move as quickly as our circumstances and the processes of the National Archives permits."

An answer guaranteed to make most eyes glaze over. But Obama effectively jumped in, noting that on one hand Clinton stresses her experience as first lady, while on the other she takes a passive approach to allowing a thorough examination of her activities during those years.

"Part of what we have to do is invite the American people back to participate in their government again," Obama said. "Part of what we need to do is rebuild trust in our government again. And that means being open and transparent and accountable to the American people."

POLITICO

This debate ended wacky, with a question to Kucinich about his UFO sighting, which he confirmed, and joked about.

That handed Obama his best spontaneous moment, in response to a question about life beyond earth.

"What I know is there's life here on Earth, and we're not attending to life here on Earth," he said.

The Telegraph

A Navy judge advocate general and lifelong Republican endorsed Sen. Barack Obama's Democratic presidential campaign Tuesday.

John Hutson is also dean of Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord.

During a conference call with reporters, Hutson praised Obama's early opposition to the war in Iraq and said he's the best candidate to restore America's moral standing in the world.



House Democrats sharply criticized the head of the Justice Department's voting section yesterday for making a series of racially charged statements, including his suggestion that black voters are not hurt as much as whites by voter identification laws because "they die first."

Tanner's testimony followed a series of remarks this month that have caused a political uproar and led to calls from some Democrats, including senator and presidential hopeful Barack Obama (Ill.), that Tanner resign or be fired.

MSNBC - (Howard Fineman): She talked about the process. And also that was the one time where Obama turned toward her, what we used to call in old debate language, the pivot, remember that? He turned toward her and he said look, this will not stand because if you're claiming the presidency based on your being the first lady, you've got to come clean on that. I thought that was his best debating point that he's made in any of these debates so far."

ABC News - Political Radar (Jake Tapper): I think Obama's having a pretty good night. [LINK](#)

Fox News (Major Garrett): [On Social Security] ...Obama took the question and enlarged it both philosophically and tangibly. ...Thus, Obama trumped the stage by giving his tax policy a philosophic core (help young earners and cash-pinched retirees), while taxing the rich with either higher income or payroll taxes. Obama's best substantive moment, by quite some distance. [LINK](#)

Atlantic - Marc Ambinder: Bottom line, before all the analysis: ...Barack Obama's were more resonant... [LINK](#)

ABC News - Political Radar: "You asked me if I would pledge, and I have pledged." - Clinton, sounding, shall we say, Clintonian. Then Obama gets a bit deeper: "We have been governed by fear these past six years." THERE is the link to his campaign message that was missing earlier this evening. It does seem like the Obama camp has plotted this out a good bit this evening. [LINK](#)

Washington Post - The Fix (Chris Cillizza) "Obama: We Will Not Be Governed by Fear": ...It was a nice

moment for Obama especially because both Clinton and Edwards, whose answers had preceded his own, simply said they would do everything in their power to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. These debates are about creating opportunities and taking advantage of them. Obama just did it. [LINK](#)

Washington Post - The Fix (Chris Cillizza): ...Obama Scores on His Background [LINK](#)

New York Times - The Caucus (Katharine Seelye): Alternative Minimum Tax - 10:39 p.m. ...Mr. Obama also said he would not campaign on the Rangel plan, but here he made a smart tactical move, turning the discussion to problems faced not by the richest people in the country but by struggling single mothers. [LINK](#)

Huffington Post: Glynnis (9:48:12 PM): The reason the GOP is focusing on You is cause that's the fight they're comfortable having...Obama steps out of the corner!! [LINK](#)

New York Times - The Caucus (Katharine Seelye): Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants - 10:58 p.m. ...Mr. Obama uttered a devastating phrase for anyone who remembers the 2004 campaign: he said he couldn't tell if she is "for it or against it." [LINK](#)

Frank Luntz' focus group of Fox judged Obama the debate winner:
[EMBED]

Clip from the debate [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack's plan to stop violence against women (2007-10-31 20:49)

Barack Obama has a new plan to help tackle the problem of violence against women.

Read Barack's op-ed – then share it with your friends

Violence against women, at home and abroad, must cease

Chicago Defender | October 31, 2007

By Senator Barack Obama

President Bush has an opportunity to assert America's moral leadership in the aftermath of last week's meeting with President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). President Bush should seize it by stepping up efforts to stop the epidemic of sexual violence in the DRC – an epidemic that is similarly devastating places like Darfur, where rape is the weapon of choice.

In recent years, tens of thousands of women and girls have been raped, tortured, and assaulted in the DRC by disgruntled soldiers and bands of marauders. One expert says this is so common in some places that it is "almost normal."

The decision to stop the violence rests with the Congolese, but the United States has a number of options – many of which were included in legislation I helped pass last year and addressed in a letter I sent to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice earlier this month. These options range from making U.S. support contingent on Congolese efforts to stop the violence and care for the victims to building a coalition of

donor nations to pressure the DRC into action. President Bush should make it clear that no diplomatic option is off the table.

But asserting America's moral leadership abroad requires more than strong, principled diplomacy. It requires setting a better example by stopping the violence that's committed against women here at home. One in four women suffers from domestic violence in her lifetime. In 2005, over 175,000 women reported being victims of rape or sexual assault. These statistics are numbing; they are also heartbreaking.

And yet, they only dimly reflect the full scale of the problem. Too often, women fear their stories of abuse will not be believed or blame themselves, and as a result, they don't come forward. But while a crime can go unreported, its consequences cannot be undone.

Use this form to share the op-ed with your friends:

To:

[illegible]

Enter up to 10 email addresses above, separated by commas.

[BUTTON]

Your Email:

Your First Name: _____

Your Last Name:

Subject: _____

Message: _____

[illegible]

Abuse scars not only the victim but her loved ones, sending currents of violence that ripple across our society. Right now, a woman who's fled an abuser is living on the streets, wondering how long it will be before she has to turn to crime or prostitution to feed herself. Down the street, a child has shut the door

and buried his head under the pillow so he doesn't have to hear his mother's cries, and there's a good chance he will grow up to be an abuser just like his father.

Government has a critical role to play in stopping this cycle of violence. Over the course of more than a decade in elective office, I have fought to assist the victims of sexual assault. And this is a commitment I will carry with me to the White House. As President, I will pass my plan to provide millions of dollars to strengthen programs aimed at preventing domestic violence and caring for those affected by it. I will also expand government efforts to offer domestic violence counseling in urban areas. And I will ensure that we fully fund the Violence Against Women Act, an important piece of legislation that I commend my colleague Senator Joe Biden for drafting.

We also need to ensure job security for victims of sexual assault, up to half of whom report losing their jobs as a result of being attacked. In Illinois, I led the fight to ensure that victims could seek shelter or treatment without losing their jobs, passing one of the strongest job protection laws in the nation. As President, I will make this a federal law. And I will expand the Family and Medical Leave Act to give additional job security to victims who need to take time off.

Finally, combating this problem demands a sustained high-level commitment. That is why, as President, I will appoint a special advisor who will report to me regularly on issues related to violence against women. This advisor will ensure that our agenda is coordinated across federal agencies, and fully implemented.

But government cannot stop a husband from striking his wife, or a woman from being assaulted on a deserted street. Ultimately, this problem has to be addressed by neighbors who are willing to report suspected crimes and by families who are willing to help loved ones come out of the darkness of isolation and into the light of justice. And we can all do our part by discussing this issue in public until we break down the stigma that still stops so many women from coming forward and bring about a change in the misogynistic attitudes that foster this violence.

Let's stop treating this as just a woman's issue. Whether it's hundreds of thousands of women being brutalized in the United States and around the world, or just a single friend whose boyfriend took advantage of her one night – when a woman is attacked on account of her gender, it is a human rights issue. And so long as it continues, the conscience of our nation cannot rest.

Download the Full Plan

[Click here to read the op-ed from the Chicago Defender](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



1.11 November

Former SC chief justice, Durham mayor endorse Obama (2007-11-02 14:28)

South Carolina's former Supreme Court chief justice and the mayor of Durham, North Carolina have cast their lots with Barack Obama's candidacy.

Ernest Finney, South Carolina's first black state Supreme Court chief justice since Reconstruction, told The Associated Press that the Illinois senator's views on education helped him make up his mind.

Durham Mayor Bill Bell gave Obama his endorsement on Thursday.

"Obama brings a different dimension to the campaign and the country in terms of his vision, the energy he has and his ideas," Bell said in an interview with The Associated Press. "He was out front in opposing the Iraq War and I think that conflict probably the biggest damage that this country has experienced."

Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-11-03 12:29)

Here is the speech delivered by Sen. Barack Obama in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: A Change We Can Believe In
Spartanburg, SC | November 03, 2007

One year from now, you will have the chance to walk into a voting booth, pull back the curtain, and choose the next President of the United States.

Here's the good news - for the first time in a long time, the name George Bush will not appear on the ballot. The name Dick Cheney will not appear on the ballot. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and the Karl Rove politics of fear and cynicism will be over.

But the question you will have to ask yourselves when you pick up your ballot a year from today is, "What next?" How do we repair the enormous damage of these dismal years and recapture that sense of common purpose that has seen America through our toughest times?

I'm running for President because I believe we find ourselves in a moment of great challenge and great promise - a moment that comes along once in a generation.

It's a moment of challenge because America is less safe and less respected than at any time in recent history. We are more dependent on oil from dictators and closer to the day when climate change becomes a climate catastrophe.

In the midst of great prosperity, families all across this country feel further from the American Dream. You know this from your own lives. Most Americans are working harder for less and paying more for health care and college than ever before. It's harder to save. Harder to retire. And the policies of the last seven years have added to that unfairness.

George Bush said whatever the politics of the moment required in order to get elected in 2000. And those seven years of broken promises have left the American people with less trust in their leaders and less faith in their government than they have in years.

We were promised compassion and conservatism but we got Katrina and wiretaps.

We were promised a uniter, but we got a divider who couldn't even lead the half of the country who voted for him.

We were promised a kinder, gentler Washington but got a town that's more bitter, secretive, and corrupt than ever before. And the only mission ever accomplished was using fear and falsehoods to take us to a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged.

This catastrophic failure of leadership has led us to a moment where it's not just Democrats who are listening to what we have to say, but Independents and Republicans who have never been more disillusioned with what the state of our leadership in Washington has done to this country.

That's why this is also a moment of great promise. It's a chance to turn the page by offering the American people a fundamentally different choice in 2008 - not just in the policies we offer, but in the kind of leadership we offer. It's a chance to come together and finally solve the challenges that were made worse by George Bush, but existed long before he took office - challenges like health care and energy and education that we haven't met for decades because of a political system in Washington that has failed the American people.

And that's what this debate in our party right now is all about.

Much has been said about the exchanges between Senator Clinton and myself this week. Now, understand that Hillary Clinton is a colleague and a friend. She's also a skilled politician, and she's run what Washington would call a "textbook" campaign. But the problem is the textbook itself.

It's a textbook that's all about winning elections, but says nothing about how to bring the country together to solve problems. As we saw in the debate last week, it encourages vague, calculated answers to suit the politics of the moment, instead of clear, consistent principles about how you would lead America. It teaches you that you can promise progress for everyday people while striking a bargain with the very special interests who crowd them out.

Now, Senator Clinton is certainly not the only one in Washington to play this game. It's gone on for years, and I understand the reasoning behind it. It's a game that usually gets politicians where they need to go. But I don't believe it gets America where we need to go. When it comes to issues like war and diplomacy; energy and health care, I don't believe we can bring about real change if all we do is change our positions based on what's popular or politically convenient. If we are going to seize this moment of challenge and promise, the American people deserve more when they head to the voting booth in 2008.

I believe that our party has made the most difference in people's lives and the life of this country when we have led not by polls but by principle; not by calculation but by conviction; when we've been able to summon the entire nation to a common purpose - a higher purpose. That's how Roosevelt led us through war and lifted us from depression. It's how Kennedy called on a new generation to ask what they could do for America. And I am running for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States because that's the kind of leadership America needs right now.

I don't pretend to be a perfect man, and I will not be a perfect President. But I am in this race because I believe that if we want to break from the failures of the past and finally make progress as a country, we can't keep telling different people what we think they want to hear - we have to tell every American what they need to know. We have to be honest about the challenges we face.

When I called for higher fuel standards so we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil, I didn't say it to some environmental group in California - I said it in front of automakers in Detroit. When I called for corporate responsibility so that middle-class Americans could get a tax cut, I said it in front of CEOs on Wall Street. And when I was invited to speak out against George Bush's plan to invade Iraq as a Senate candidate five years ago, I didn't listen to those who warned me that it was politically risky position to take, I listened to my gut, and I said loud and clear that this was the wrong war at the wrong time and Congress should stand up and say so.

That's the kind of leadership we need right now. That's why I'm this race. Because I don't think you should settle for a President who's only there for you when it's easy or convenient or popular - I think you deserve a President who's willing to fight for you every hour of every day for the next four years.

That's the change we can offer in 2008 - not change as a slogan, but change we can believe in.

One year from now, we have the chance to tell all those corporate lobbyists that the days of them setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more to take on lobbyists than any other candidate in

this race - and I've won. I don't take a dime of their money, and when I am President, they won't find a job in my White House. Because real change isn't another four years of defending lobbyists who don't represent real Americans - it's standing with working Americans who have seen their jobs disappear and their wages decline and their hope for the future slip further and further away. That's the change we can offer in 2008.

When I am President, I will end the tax giveaways to companies that ship our jobs overseas, and I will put the money in the pockets of working Americans, and seniors, and homeowners who deserve a break. I won't wait ten years to raise the minimum wage - I'll raise it to keep pace every single year. And if American workers are being denied their right to organize when I'm in the White House, I will put on a comfortable pair of shoes and I will walk on that picket line with you as President of the United States.

One year from now, we can stop campaigning on the outrage of 47 million uninsured Americans and finally start doing something about it. I reformed health care in Illinois, and I didn't do it alone - I did it by reaching out to Democrats and Republicans. We took on the insurance industry, and we won. That's how I'll pass a universal health care bill that allows every American to get the same kind of health care that members of Congress get for themselves and cuts every family's premiums by up to \$2500. And mark my words - I will sign this bill by the end of my first term as President. That's the change we can offer in 2008.

One year from now, we can stop sending our children down corridors of shame and start putting them on a pathway to success. When I am President, we will stop passing bills called No Child Left Behind that leave the money behind and start making real investments in education from cradle to adulthood. That means early childhood education. That means recruiting an army of new teachers, and paying them better, and supporting them more so they're not just teaching to test, but teaching to teach. And it means finally putting a college education within reach of every American. That's the change we can offer in 2008.

One year from now, we can stop sending hundreds of millions of dollars to dictators for their oil while we melt the polar ice caps in the bargain. I will raise our fuel standards, and put a cap on carbon emissions to reduce them 80 % by 2050. We'll tell polluters that they have to pay for their pollution, because they don't own the skies, the American people own the skies. And we'll use the money to invest in the clean, renewable fuels that are our future. That's the change we can offer in 2008.

In this election, we have the chance to turn the page on the last six years of being told that the only way for Democrats to look tough on national security is to talk, and act, and vote like George Bush Republicans.

When I'm your nominee, my opponent won't be able to say that I was for the war in Iraq before I was against it; or that I supported an extension of the Iraq war into Iran; or that I support the Bush-Cheney diplomacy of not talking to leaders we don't like. And he won't be able to say that I flip-flopped on something as fundamental as whether our nation should use torture. Because we are not a nation that makes excuses for torture, we are a nation that rejects it. That's the change we can offer in 2008.

When I am President, I will end this war in Iraq. I will bring our troops home within sixteen months. I'll finish the fight against al Qaeda in Afghanistan. And I will lead the world against the common threats of the 21st century - nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. That's what Democrats must stand for, and that's what America must stand for. And I'll be a President who finally sends a message to the black, white, and brown faces beyond our shores; from the halls of power to the huts of Africa that says, "You matter to America. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now. Now is our chance to turn the page. Now is our chance to write a new chapter.

I am in this race because I don't want to see us spend the next year re-fighting the Washington battles of the 1990s. I don't want to pit Blue America against Red America, I want to lead a United States of America. I don't want this election to be about the past, because if it's about the future, we all win. If

this election is about whether or not to end this war, or pass universal health care, or make more college affordable, it won't just be a Democratic victory; it will be an American victory.

That's the victory this country needs right now. This election and this moment are too important to settle for what we already know. The time has come to reach for what we know is possible.

I am not running for this office to fulfill any long-held plans or because I believe it is somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, and I always knew the journey would be improbable. I've never been on one that wasn't.

I am running because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." I am running because I do believe there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost here.

I'm running because I don't want to wake up one morning four years from now, and turn on one of those cable talk shows, and see that Washington is still stuck in the same food fight it's been in for over a decade. I don't want to see that more Americans lost their health care and fell into bankruptcy because we let the insurance industry spend millions to stop us for yet another year. I don't want to see that.

I don't want to see that the oceans rose another few inches and the planet has reached the point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop ourselves from buying oil from dictators. I don't want to see that.

I don't want to see that we risked more American lives in another misguided war because no one had the judgment to ask the tough questions before we sent our troops to fight. I don't want to see that.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the street. I don't want to send another generation of children through corridors of shame. I don't want this future for my daughters and I do not accept this future for America. It is time to turn the page.

I run for the presidency for the same reason I drove halfway across the country over two decades ago to bring jobs to the jobless and hope to the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I stood up for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason I've fought for Illinois families for over a decade. Because I will never forget that the only reason I am standing here today is because someone, somewhere stood up when it wasn't popular, when it was risky; when it was hard. And because that someone stood up, a few more did. And then a few thousand. And then a few million. And together, they changed the world.

That's why I run in this election. I run to give my children and their children the same chances that someone, somewhere gave me. I run so that a year from today, there is a chance that the world will look at America differently, and that America will look at itself differently. And I run to keep the promise of the United States of America alive for all those who still hunger for opportunity and thirst for equality and long to believe again.

That is the change that's possible in this election. That is the moment I want to seize as President. And I ask you all to join me in this journey. Thank you.

As Prepared for delivery

Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



'One brick at a time' (2007-11-03 16:43)

Barack Obama gave an inspiring speech on working for the future of our children at the Clarendon County Court House in South Carolina yesterday.

Currently, Obama is blanketing Nevada and South Carolina with radio ads, but is reserving television campaigns so far only to Iowa and New Hampshire.

[EMBED]

Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



NH SEIU may reendorse Obama (2007-11-04 12:24)

New Hampshire's SEIU endorsement might eventually go to Barack Obama after all when the union's convention reconvenes on Nov. 17.

The short version of all this is that the union's executive board voted Oct 23 to endorse Obama, 7-5. The Associated Press reported last week that the union actually called Obama to tell him the news.

Barack Obama speaking in Charlottesville, South Carolina

[EMBED]

Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-11-04 13:44)

Barack Obama made a surprise appearance on Saturday Night Live last night and didn't miss the chance to lampoon opponent Hillary Clinton. Watch the video:



Barack and Michelle will appear with Grammy Award winning singer John Legend at a Nov. 10 rally in Des Moines, Iowa.





Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Althouse: "I would say, 'Go, Obama, you're black enough for me.'" (2007-11-04 20:57)

Althouse: "I would say, 'Go, Obama, you're black enough for me.'"

It's not entirely clear who started the whole debate over whether Obama is black enough or not.

The media and blogs certainly have picked up this theme though.

Obama has been campaigning hard in South Carolina lately with its major black voting population, and continues to receive high level endorsements from black elected officials. Most recently, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Columbus mayor Mike Coleman and Durham mayor Bill Bell have voiced their support for Obama.

In the end, it will likely be the perception of Obama's stand on the issues rather than his color that will decide the votes of most voters, whatever their own hue.

Watch the latest videos on YouTube.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Handicapping Obama (2007-11-05 08:53)

If we just look at the polls, then candidate Barack Obama might seem like a real long shot right now. He would not be the horse to bet on.

However, in early Democratic polls historically are not very accurate. By "early," you could make the argument that any poll other than the actual voting is early! For example, if you would have bet on the winner of the last Democratic primary election based on polling just a week before Iowa, you would have lost.

Not only was the national polling wrong, even the polling for Iowa turned out way off the mark.

When election time is at hand, the spotlight on the candidate's becomes that much brighter. People start really thinking about who they want to support. The weaknesses and strengths of the different candidates, at least the appearance of those qualities, starts to weigh heavily on the mind.

Issues that are important to the voting population, like the Iraq War and the economy, will likely take center stage depending on how the different campaigns frame the issues. Also, the media, including bloggers, play a role as to which issues take the commanding role.

Hillary Clinton probably has the most experienced, established campaign staff and quite a lot of external organizational support. John Edwards is amassing good support from organized labor. Barack Obama arguably has the

younger, most innovative team behind him.

Barack seems to have lower negatives than the other front-runners and less unfavorable history. That could make a difference when the election is actually at hand. To me, the race is much closer than indicated by the polls.

Washington Post/ABC Poll

10/29 - 11/1, 2007

Fav/Unfav

Obama 51 / 36

Clinton 50 / 46

Edwards 49 / 35

Giuliani 50 / 40

McCain 43 / 42

Thompson 33 / 37

Romney 28 / 41

Huckabee 21 / 30

Of course, this is also only a poll. But I think things could get worse for Clinton and to a lesser extent Edwards as game time approaches because of their history particularly on the Iraq War.

A lot depends on how the Obama team's Iowa strategy works. They've invested a lot of time and resources in this state. If he comes in first or second, maybe third if the race is extremely tight and Hillary is not on top, I think he has a good chance. Otherwise, he becomes a big underdog.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Scatablog: Obama: passing the torch to a new generation? (2007-11-05 18:14)

Scatablog: Obama: passing the torch to a new generation?

Scatablog asks why Republicans hate Hillary Clinton so much while having overall a rather favorable view of Barack Obama .

The dislike of Clinton is related probably to her connection to Bill Clinton or "Slick Willie" as the Republicans sometimes call him.

Republicans claim that Bill was responsible for the highly divisive environment in Washington that today is preventing Congress from getting anything done.

The last time Congress was able to set aside political differences to any meaningful degree was back when Tip O'Neil was Speaker of the House.

Whether Clinton actually started the animosity is debatable. However, Hillary remains a highly-polarizing figure because of her husband. Although Bill and George Sr. are now pretty good buddies, many ground-level Republicans still hold a grudge against Clinton, or actually the Clintons.

One question the Obama campaign asks is whether Hillary as president will be able to break through the current gridlock that exists in Washington or whether instead the fireworks will only get worse.

This may explain the following news release from the campaign today:

Today 268 Iowa Republicans announced that they will caucus for Senator Barack Obama and 68 New Hampshire Republicans announced that they had changed their party registration to vote for Barack Obama in the primary, saying he is the only candidate in either party who can break through the gridlock in Washington because he has a proven record of bringing Republicans and Democrats together to solve problems. In Illinois, Obama bridged the partisan divide to extend health care to 150,000 Illinois families, pass a \$100 million tax cut for working families and enact historic ethics reform.

"With all of the challenges our country faces, we cannot elect a President who will go to Washington and just get bogged down by the same partisan gridlock," Brett Blix said. "That's why I'm supporting Senator Obama even though I'm a Republican. He's the only candidate in either party with a record of bringing Republicans and Democrats together to solve problems, and he will always tell you where he stands even when you disagree. There are thousands of disaffected Republicans like me who are disappointed by President Bush and the Republican presidential candidates who would consider voting for a Democrat who can bring about change we can believe in."

Brett Blix is 30-year-old Iraq war veteran from Northwood, Iowa. He recently switched his party registration so that he can caucus for Senator Obama.

"I've been a Republican all my life, but the challenges we face are too great to choose a candidate based on his party—we need to choose the candidate who can bring fundamental change to Washington and start getting things done again," Jerry Spivak said. "Barack Obama is the only candidate who will be able to break the partisan logjam and inspire Americans to come together around real solutions."

Jerry Spivak is a 57-year-old engineer from Nashua, New Hampshire. He recently switched his party registration so that he can vote for Senator Obama in the primary.

This public support from Republicans is yet another sign of Senator Obama's crossover appeal. Previously, Obama received third place in a poll of Republican Iowa caucus goers – receiving more support from Republicans than Mike Huckabee, John McCain and Sam Brownback combined.

"I've always believed that you can only bring about real change when people come together across party lines, and I've seen what happens when folks put politics aside and get down to work," Senator Obama said. "If you can't bring people together across the old fault lines, you simply aren't going to be able to make progress on the challenges we face."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Manning Civil Rights Speech (2007-11-06 08:29)

[EMBED]

USA Today

When Sen. Barack Obama took to the steps of the Clarendon County Courthouse in Manning, S.C., Friday to give a speech on civil rights, the symbolism of the location was as chilling as the unspoken reason for his address.

It was in Clarendon County that a 1948 lawsuit was filed by a black farmer whose children had to walk miles to school while white students were provided free bus transportation. That suit launched a legal campaign that culminated six years later in the Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that outlawed school segregation.

"It would have been easy for them to stay home. To heed the voices of caution and convenience that said,

'wait,' 'the timing isn't right,' or 'the country just isn't ready.' It would have been easy for them to give in to the fears that no doubt kept them awake some nights," the Illinois senator said of the blacks who went to court to end the racial imbalances in the county's school system.

"Now, I've heard that some folks aren't sure America is ready for an African-American president, so let me be clear," he told his mostly black audience. "I never would have begun this campaign if I weren't confident I could win. But you see, I am not asking anyone to take a chance on me. I am asking you to take a chance on your own aspirations."

...a victory by Obama in the race to become the Democratic nominee would put a black man in position to take the helm of the world's most powerful nation.

...No one should back away from supporting him out of fear that his race might cause others to reject his candidacy — or cause him harm.

Had blacks in Clarendon County been afraid to confront their fears, they would not have made the history that changed this nation for the better.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Case for Obama (2007-11-06 14:17)

Barack Obama's campaign launched a new radio ad on 36 stations across the state of South Carolina. The ad is entitled "Difference." Here's the script:

"Difference"

Script:

Sen. Barack Obama:

I'm Barack Obama and I approved this message.

My father left when I was two. I only saw him once after that. My mother did her best, struggling to take care of my sister and me. But it's hard to heal that hole in your heart.

I think about that when I see young boys running loose on the streets of our community, without that male role model...without opportunity, hope or direction.

It's not a hurricane— just another disaster Washington can't see.

The stakes are so high in this election. Millions of our kids attend failing, underfunded schools. Too many young black men in prison, too few in college. Even in the middle of the world's richest country, so many are left behind.

Unless we try something different, we're going to get the same old results; the same tinkering at the edges. The same unkept promises.

This is Barack Obama.

We must change the ways of Washington to bring jobs and better schools and health care to America's forgotten places.

That's why I'm running for President, South Carolina. Join me.

Paid for by Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama begins swing through Iowa (2007-11-07 14:59)

Barack Obama launched a five-day circuit through Iowa with a speech in Bettendorf entitled "Reclaiming the American Dream."



Specific points of Obama's plan to help working families include:

- Provide a middle class tax cut of up to \$1,000 for working families, and eliminate the income tax for retirees making less than \$50,000 per year.
- Address the challenge of balancing work and family by guaranteeing workers paid sick days, expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), supporting paid FMLA, and doubling funding for after-school programs.
- Help Americans buy and keep their homes.
- Protect American families by reforming bankruptcy laws, predatory credit card policies, and abusive payday lending practices.
- Reduce health care costs by \$2,500 for a typical family.
- Strengthen retirement security by automatically enrolling workers in portable retirement accounts and providing additional incentives for Americans to save.
- Put the cost of college in reach by providing a \$4,000 refundable tax credit available at the time of enrollment, and create a Community College Partnership Program to strengthen this vital resource for American students.

The highlight of the Iowa visit is the Pre-JJ Rally on Nov. 10 with singer John Legend.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-11-07 16:56)

"I really believe we are at a critical moment when it comes to rural America. Over the next several years, we are going to determine whether or not rural America is empowered to join in a broader prosperity, or whether Washington continues policies that leave rural communities behind. That's why I've introduced a rural agenda that shows the kind of leadership that is needed if we are going to make progress. The focus of the plan revolves around me listening to the concerns of rural Nevadans and rural Americans across the country."

Barack Obama Monday, November 6, 2007



Las Vegas, NV – Senator Barack Obama unveiled his “Real Leadership for Rural Nevada” plan today on a conference call with reporters. The plan was crafted with the input of Nevadans from across the state who Obama and his campaign have spoken with over the course of the last several months.

Listen to the Conference Call with Senator Barack Obama: [EMBED]

“For far too long, politicians entrenched in Washington have listened to special interests while shutting out rural Americans. The result is policies that work for corporate interests, but against rural communities,” said Obama.

Obama is calling for new initiatives to support rural economic development, improve the quality of life for rural communities and promote America's leadership in the development of renewable energy.

“We need to seize opportunities in rural America to secure our energy future and save our planet. The research and development that has already taken place in Nevada will be critical to advancing this initiative and tapping resources in rural communities,” Obama said.

During his conference call with Nevada reporters, Obama specifically discussed his policies to strengthen the mining industry, improve rural health care including veterans' health care, combat the methamphetamine crisis and support Nevada's family ranchers.

“We need to give a hand to the next generation of ranchers, so they get the skills and incentives they need to help them afford their first ranch, and we need to stop tilting the scales against family ranchers,” said Obama. “I support

a packer ban and strict enforcement of antimonopoly laws, because when meatpackers own livestock, they can drive down prices and manipulate markets.”

The plan can be viewed in full [HERE](#).

Obama: Leadership for Rural Nevada (2007-11-08 11:51)

According to Obama 's one-state-at-a-time strategy, the campaign cannot overlook the state of Nevada after Iowa in anticipation of the first primary-style poll in New Hampshire. Nevada looks more like the nation demographically than Iowa, so every candidate would want to look strong in that state.

Yesterday, Obama released his “Real Leadership for Rural Nevada” plan:

”I really believe we are at a critical moment when it comes to rural America. Over the next several years, we are going to determine whether or not rural America is empowered to join in a broader prosperity, or whether Washington continues policies that leave rural communities behind. That’s why I’ve introduced a rural agenda that shows the kind of leadership that is needed if we are going to make progress. The focus of the plan revolves around me listening to the concerns of rural Nevadans and rural Americans across the country.”

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2007-11-08 15:37)

Here's an entry from the official barackobama.com blog with an audio from NPR radio. The section on Obama is near the end of the clip.



This morning, NPR ran a piece about the real people who get to meet the candidates on the campaign trail, and how it affects their lives.

The second half of the audio is devoted to Geri Puntene, an Iowan from the small town of Oelwein. Geri has a brother who is dying of cancer, and at a recent event in Iowa, she was able to stand up and ask Barack a question about healthcare – about why her brother should have to continue to work so hard, even with stage 3 lymphoma.

The exchange was a profoundly moving experience for Geri, who was overwhelmed by Barack's attention to her question, his progressive healthcare plan which would help people like her brother, and that after the event, he came and spoke with her personally, holding her hand.

This is a must-listen...click here for the whole piece on NPR.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

New Hampshire Presidential Watch: Patrick To Campaign for Obama (2007-11-08 15:48)

New Hampshire Presidential Watch: Patrick To Campaign for Obama
Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick will stump for presidential candidate

Barack Obama in the early state of New Hampshire at Danville on Nov. 10.

Here's a funny video from an Obama supporter:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama speaks to retirees left "High and Dry" in Iowa (2007-11-09 23:09)

Barack Obama's most recent television ad in Iowa entitled "High and Dry" tells of the Illinois senator's plans for pension reform.

Dave Hartgrave, 72, of Cedar Rapids tells of his fortunes after the pension he was expecting was cut by almost 75 percent.

"I worked here for 33 years, did everything they asked me to do," he says. "The executives decided to take \$19 million out of our pension fund, didn't return it. Thought I was going to be getting \$1,500 a month, I only got \$379."

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's Strengths (2007-11-10 10:20)

With the election nearing, many Barack Obama supporters are wondering if their candidate can pull it off and just how that can happen.

Let's examine Obama's strengths. Specifically his campaign strengths. For Obama's potential strengths as president, see my posts on his leadership ability and on his platform.

No doubt, Barack Obama is a great campaigner. He whipped up a front-running campaign in the least amount of time of all the other candidates. Barack had a previous roadmap to the presidency that involved first becoming governor of Illinois. However, when he saw a good opportunity this election, he moved swiftly and decisively.

Although John Edwards had carefully prepared for years to build up a "next phase" internet campaign on the model of Howard Dean's, Obama was able to quickly become the online star.

Not only he has raised extraordinary amounts of money, but as a newcomer on the Washington scene he has garnered impressive endorsements from established political powers.

Obama can fire up a crowd but importantly he also fires himself up very well. He has spent the most time in Iowa of any Democratic contender this year, often walking door-to-door to meet with voters.

He has managed to raise an army of strong, motivated supporters. These troops could make the difference in the end depending on how hard they are willing to work for the senator.

Money is not an important issue with this campaign. From all appearances they should have enough cash to get their message out, if the budget is well-controlled.

Much of Obama's support is of the latent type. Young and first-time voters who will need to be fired up at the last minute to ensure they vote. This is one area where the candidate himself has some telling experience. He led a highly

successful get-out-the-vote drive for Bill Clinton's campaign in his home state of Illinois.

What is extraordinary is the effort the campaign has made in putting together their ground attack. In California, for example, they have organized the whole state by congressional districts. I didn't notice anything like this even during the Kerry-Edwards campaign during the general election last time around.

I suspect this has a lot to do with Barack's own experience as a grassroots organizer.

The groundwork is surely being laid, and as I see it will be up to Barack to "fire up" the troops during the last phase of the election that will determine victory or defeat.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama supporters fired up for Jefferson-Jackson Dinner (2007-11-10 11:10)

Barack Obama's troops are really hyped for the tonight's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, the Iowa Democratic Party's fundraiser held in Des Moines. This is a traditional event for the Iowa caucuses.

Here's a YouTube video of preparations for the dinner from last night.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLex2xKauvk>

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQFLXj3-THc>



Video footage from JJ Dinner rallies (2007-11-10 18:53)

Plenty of video footage coming in from the Obama campaign at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Iowa:

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voX9v7pgtOA>

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybk4MeUGBVo>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rave reviews for Obama at JJ Dinner (2007-11-11 11:50)

Well, Barack Obama's supporters last night at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner were truly "fired up." They also dominated the crowd at this classic campaign event.

Influential Iowa columnist David Yepsen thought Obama came out of the JJ Dinner with the "Big Mo" (momentum).

Des Moines Register



The leading Democratic presidential candidates showed up for the Iowa Democratic Party's big Jefferson Jackson Dinner Saturday night.

Five of them gave really good speeches.

Barack Obama's was excellent.

It was one of the best of his campaign. The passion he showed should help him close the gap on Hillary Clinton by tipping some undecided caucus-goers his way. His oratory was moving and he successfully contrasted himself with the others - especially Clinton - without being snide or nasty about it.

Obama was particularly impressive Saturday night. Should he win the Iowa caucuses, Saturday's dinner will be remembered as one of the turning points in his campaign in here, a point where he laid down the marker and began closing on Clinton, the national frontrunner...

While the Democratic candidates all had a good night, Obama clearly had the best.

Barack Obama's speech at JJ Dinner

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tydfsfSQiYc>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama gobbles mouse (2007-11-12 15:55)

Sen. Barack Obama grabbed a mouse by the tail and gobbled it down before a crowd of people – a chocolate mouse that is.

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✕

Democratic presidential hopeful, U.S. Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill., eats a white chocolate mouse during a campaign stop before a working women's roundtable at Walpole Chocolates in Walpole, N.H., Monday, Nov. 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

The candy mice are the specialty of L.A. Burdick chocolates of Walpole, New Hampshire. And in New Hampshire over the weekend, Gov. Deval Patrick led a team of volunteers on a canvass of neighborhoods for Sen. Obama.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama campaign in Nevada and New Hampshire (2007-11-12 16:02)

Candidate Barack Obama's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng is campaigning for the senator in Nevada today:



Las Vegas, NV- Barack Obama's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng held a breakfast discussion at Coco's bakery with local supporters, and will be holding several meetings today in Las Vegas with local precinct leaders, students, and other supporters discussing Barack's little known feminist roots and his commitment to families. The breakfast was hosted by members of Women for Barack Obama.

Barack Obama will be in Claremont and Lebanon in New Hampshire on Nov. 12:



X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

'Mother of all fundraising challenges' (2007-11-12 22:19)

Barack Obama 's grassroots supporters are looking to outdo Ron Paul's online \$4.2 million haul in a 24 hour time period.

The "Mother of all fundraising challenges" is dubbed "Barack's Friday," and organizer Girish Manchaiah hopes to raise \$5 million by Nov. 16 following the previous day's debate.

X

Event Link: <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4vzvl>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

74 days left in South Carolina (2007-11-13 17:11)

Barack Obama supporters in South Carolina are making canvassing sweeps with 74 days left until primary time. Sheila is one of those supporters leading the way:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama on high tech and innovation (2007-11-14 12:53)

Sen. Barack Obama released details of his technology platform today as he visits Googleplex in California's Silicon Valley.

Included in his plan is the creation of a national Chief Technology Officer position to oversee progress in high tech

areas.

Key points of the proposal are:

- Ensure the full and free exchange of information among Americans through an open Internet and diverse media outlets.
- Create a transparent and connected democracy.
- Encourage the deployment of a modern communications infrastructure.
- Employ technology and innovation to solve our nation's most pressing problems, including reducing the costs of health care, encouraging the development of new clean energy sources, and improving public safety.
- Improve America's competitiveness.

Read the full press release at:

<http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/InnovationTechnology.pdf>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Tech proponent Lessig endorses Obama (2007-11-14 21:21)

Tech guru and Creative Commons co-founder Lawrence Lessig endorsed Barack Obama today. Here is what the Stanford professor had to say:

First the importantly balanced: You'll read he's a supporter of Net Neutrality. No surprise there. But read carefully what Net Neutrality for Obama is. There's no blanket ban on offering better service; the ban is on contracts that offer different terms to different providers for that better service. And there's no promise to police what's under the technical hood (beyond the commitment already articulated by Chairman Powell): This is a sensible and valuable Net Neutrality policy that shows a team keen to get it right – which includes making it enforceable in an efficient way, even if not as radical as some possible friends would like.

Second, on the important: As you'll read, Obama has committed himself to a technology policy for government that could radically change how government works. The small part of that is simple efficiency – the appointment with broad power of a CTO for the government, making the insanely backwards technology systems of government actually work.

But the big part of this is a commitment to making data about the government (as well as government data) publicly available in standard machine readable formats. The promise isn't just the naive promise that government websites will work better and reveal more. It is the really powerful promise to feed the data necessary for the Sunlights and the Maplights of the world to make government work better. Atomize (or RSS-ify) government data (votes, contributions, Members of Congress's calendars) and you enable the rest of us to make clear the economy of influence that is Washington.

And here is Barack's speech announcing his new technology plan:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Nevada supporters prepare for tonight's debate (2007-11-15 08:31)

Democratic candidates will face off tonight at 5pm PST during the CNN-Nevada State Democratic Party debate at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

A sign war that will ensue in the parking lot of the Thomas & Mack Center before the debate.

[EMBED]

Preparations for Nevada debate

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



UAW regional group endorses Obama, includes Iowa (2007-11-15 17:24)

United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 4 endorsed Barack Obama today pledging to promote the senator among its 64,000 active members and 122,000 retirees.

UAW Region 4 includes 30,000 members and retirees residing in the early state of Iowa. It also covers the states of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"There are many talented Democrats in the presidential field this year, but Barack Obama is the leader who will bring the kind of change to Washington that America's working men and women can believe in," said UAW Local 442 President Paul Erickson of Webster City, Iowa. "For the last two decades, working families have been able to count on Barack Obama to stand up for us and our values. We are supporting him, because we know he'll do the same thing in the White House."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wins CNN poll in raucous debate (2007-11-16 09:31)

Barack Obama won the debate according to a CNN online poll, but it was a wonder he got through it relatively unscathed.

There was a lot of booing from the crowd directed mainly at Obama and Edwards, and for awhile a heckler could be heard in the background while Obama was speaking. Usually in these debates, the audience is instructed not to make any noise at all during the moderated session.

Nevertheless, here are some positive reviews for Obama from the news dailies:



"Obama Exposes Regional Difference With Clinton As Debate Turns For Him"

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama tonight turned in his strongest presidential debate performance and exposed a clear regional difference with front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Is \$97,000 a lot of money? In most of Obama's Illinois and just about all of Iowa, the answer to that is "yes," which makes Obama's position on the question of whether to raise or lift the cap on Social Security taxes more reasonable to Hawkeye State voters than the New York shape-shifting of Clinton.

As it stands, the first \$97,500 of a person's annual income is subject to the Social Security tax. Obama supports lifting that to shore up the future of the system while Clinton went with the nostalgia card, suggesting that she could resurrect the macroeconomic picture that prevailed under her husband and cause the Social Security problem to disappear without hard choices. She suggested that popping the cap would hurt middle-class Americans and argued that in some parts of the nation (namely high-priced New York City which she represents) \$97,500 isn't a lot of money. It would be interesting to hear her make that argument in Audubon County, Iowa, where the average home is worth half that much: \$49,000.

The Washington Post

Obama offered himself as a credible and – more importantly – safe alternative to Clinton in last night's debate...

Obama offered his "we can do more" vision succinctly and forcefully. "Don't keep on assuming we can't do something," Obama scolded Blitzer at one point. "I am running for president because I think we can do it."

Obama got the best word count of all the candidates:

- Obama: 3,316
- Clinton: 2,618
- Gov. Bill Richardson: 2,180
- Sen. Joseph Biden: 1,892
- Edwards: 1,776
- Sen. Christopher Dodd: 1,560
- Rep. Dennis Kucinich: 1,080

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Kaine to campaign for Obama in Iowa (2007-11-16 17:29)

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will be coming to Iowa this weekend to campaign for Sen. Barack Obama with elections over in his home state of Virginia.

"In Virginia and the rest of our great nation, people from across the political spectrum are excited by Senator Obama's commitment to uniting our country to make progress on the issues that matter to everyday Americans," Kaine said in a statement.

Kaine will stump in Cedar Rapids, Vinton, Waverly, Charles City, Osage, Mason City, Algona, Fort Dodge and Webster City, and plans another out-of-state trip for Obama this year.

Barack speaks of the fundamental need for a spirit not just of bipartisanship but of truly approaching America's problems together with all Americans.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dirty campaigning ahead? (2007-11-18 19:25)

The Obama campaign released this statement today on the report by journalist Robert D. Novak that the Clinton camp has "scandalous" dirt on Sen. Barack Obama:

Later in the day, Clinton aides denied Novak's reports.

Obama Statement on Reports of Clinton Campaign Tactics

Chicago, IL | November 17, 2007

"During our debate in Las Vegas on Thursday, we heard Senator Clinton rail against the politics of 'throwing mud.'

"At the very same time, in Washington, Robert Novak was publishing a column in which he reported the following: 'Agents of Sen. Hillary Clinton are spreading the word in Democratic circles that she has scandalous information about her principal opponent for the party's presidential nomination, Sen. Barack Obama...'

"The item did not identify these 'agents,' nor did it reveal the nature of the charge. It was devoid of facts, but heavy on innuendo and insinuation of the sort to which we've become all too accustomed in our politics these past two decades. If the purpose of this shameless item was to daunt or discourage me or supporters of our campaign from challenging and changing the politics of Washington, it will fail. In fact, it will only serve to steel our resolve.

"But in the interest of our party, and her own reputation, Senator Clinton should either make public any and all information referred to in the item, or concede the truth: that there is none.

"She of all people, having complained so often about 'the politics of personal destruction,' should move quickly to either stand by or renounce these tactics.

"I am prepared to stand up to that kind of politics, whether it's deployed by candidates in our party, in the other party or by any third party.

"The cause of change in this country will not be deterred or sidetracked by the old 'Swift boat' politics. The cause of moving America forward demands that we defeat it."

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NY Post: HILL SHILLS HINT AT 'BAM SLAM

By ROBERT D. NOVAK

November 17, 2007 – Agents of Sen. Hillary Clinton are spreading the word in Democratic circles that she has scandalous information about her principal opponent for the party's presidential nomination, Sen. Barack Obama, but has decided not to use it. The nature of the alleged scandal was not disclosed.

This word-of-mouth among Democrats makes Obama look vulnerable and Clinton look prudent. It comes during a dip for the front-running Clinton after she refused to take a stand on New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's now discarded plan to give driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

Experienced Democratic political operatives believe Clinton wants to avoid a repetition of 2004, when attacks on each other by presidential candidates Howard Dean and Richard Gephardt were mutually destructive and facilitated John Kerry's nomination.

Read the full article from the NY Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rumors fly over Obama JJ turnout (2007-11-18 19:48)

Seems like many folk are not able to accept the exceptionable organization displayed by the Obama campaign at the important Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Iowa.

Often a turning point in presidential campaigns, this year's JJ dinner was owned by Obama according to all reports. About a third of the crowd was for Obama and they were generally the best prepared group.

Now, all kinds of suggestions have been circulating that Obama organized supporters from his neighboring home state of Illinois to create a false impression of his Iowa support.

Now, people who spend considerable time at barackobama.com and particularly at his Illinois-dedicated page might have a hard time believing that thousands of supporters were secretly ordered to Iowa to pack the JJ event.

However, it has to be scary to Obama's opponents to think that Obama has real organized support of that type in Iowa. Winning caucuses in that state is about sending trained teams of campaigners to stump for your candidate at the meetings in which people decide who to support.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack outlines Veterans Homelessness Prevention Act (2007-11-19 12:56)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama talks about his Veterans Homelessness Prevention Act yesterday after meeting with residents at Buckingham Place, a facility for homeless veterans in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Act would launch a \$26 million pilot program providing housing for at-risk veterans, along with mental health counseling, job training and financial planning.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



FreePoliticsdotUS (2007-11-19 21:49:00)

It's great to see Obama talking about the veterans, he's one of the few, which is saddening.

Obama reveals new \$18 billion education plan (2007-11-20 09:20)

Presidential candidate Barack Obama on Tuesday unveiled a \$18 billion education plan to prepare students for college and to train teachers to lead in classrooms.

"It's pretty popular to bash No Child Left Behind out on the campaign trail, but when it was being debated in Congress four years ago, my colleague Dick Durbin offered a chance to vote so that the law couldn't be enforced unless it was fully funded," Obama said. "A lot of senators, including Senator Edwards and Senator Clinton, passed on that chance. And I believe that was a serious mistake."

Obama's plan encourages universal pre-kindergarten programs, expands teacher mentoring programs and provides pay increases for teachers that are not linked with standardized test scores.

"In this election, at this defining moment, we can decide that this century will be another American century by making a historic commitment to education. We can make a commitment that's more than just the rhetoric of a campaign, one that's more than another empty promise made by a politician looking for your vote," Obama said.

Obama's campaign said he would pay for the \$18 billion program by delaying NASA's Constellation Program, which develops space exploration rockets, by bulk buying, by auctioning surplus federal property and by reducing errant payments identified by the Government Accountability Office.

Obama wants to remove poorly performing teachers from classrooms , increase time spent on math and science instruction, establish 40,000 new scholarships for potential teachers, pay for continuing education programs and invest in new schools.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Events in the Early States (2007-11-20 13:37)

In Iowa after Thanksgiving, Barack Obama will be appearing personally at various locations:

Town Hall Meeting With Barack Obama in Council Bluffs

Saturday, November 24, 2007 @ 12:00pm

Council Bluffs, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Dunlap

Saturday, November 24, 2007 @ 2:45pm

Dunlap, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Harlan

Saturday, November 24, 2007 @ 5:15pm

Harlan, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Audubon

Saturday, November 24, 2007 @ 7:30pm

Audobon, IA

Bremer/Butler Women for Obama Get Together

Thursday, November 29, 2007 @ 7:00pm

Waverly, IA

The Obama campaign has opened a new office in Pahrump, Nevada:
[EMBED]
Barack unveiled his education plan in Manchester, New Hampshire today.



Obama supporters will canvas in New Hampshire after the Thanksgiving holiday.
In South Carolina, Michelle Obama is campaigning for her husband.
Michelle Obama in Orangeburg
Tuesday, November 20, 2007 @ 12:00pm
Orangeburg, SC
Michelle Obama in Columbia
Tuesday, November 20, 2007 @ 3:45pm
Columbia, SC
The campaign has also released its first television ad in South Carolina:
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Quirk endorses Obama (2007-11-20 18:00)

State Representative Brian Quirk of New Hampton, Iowa endorsed Barack Obama today, his 16th endorsement from state legislative endorsement.

"Our next president must be able to bring America together to make progress on the tough challenges we face," Rep. Quirk said. "Barack Obama's unique ability to build consensus resonates with Iowans who are tired of divisive politics and ready for a change in the way we do politics. Barack represents that change, and I'm proud to join his grassroots movement to transform our country."

Oprah to stump in Iowa

Oprah Winfrey is coming to Iowa and then New Hampshire to campaign for Obama according to Lynn Sweet's blog. The hope is that she will be able to convince more women to vote for the Illinois senator.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Tino Villareal on Obama (2007-11-21 10:55)

Tino Cuellar, Professor of Law and Deane F. Johnson Faculty Scholar at Stanford Law School, is an immigration advisor to Barack Obama's campaign.

Here is an interview where he discusses the Obama campaign's outreach to Latinos:



Why did you decide to support Barack Obama?

People around the world face historic challenges. War and disease are devastating many parts of the developing world. Global warming remains a threat. And rampant poverty crushes the dreams of hundreds of millions across the planet. American leadership is central to forging solutions. Within our own country, we find a health care system that leaves tens of millions of people uninsured and satisfies few of those who are covered, a failing immigration system, vulnerable critical infrastructures at risk from disasters and terrorism, and growing economic insecurity. I support Barack Obama because these problems call for uncommon leadership that can transcend our existing political divisions. He can deliver this leadership. He has built a national movement founded on integrity, intellectual honesty, and decades-long experience working to achieve public policies that improve people's lives. Over the course of his career as a community organizer, a civil rights lawyer, a law professor, and a legislator, Barack Obama has consistently defied the odds, demonstrating a distinctive ability to speak with people across conventional

social, racial, economic, and ideological divisions. His energy, his ability to transcend existing political battles, and his capacity for helping the public understand and find principled responses to complicated challenges can help us leave the country and the planet in better shape than we found it.

What do you think distinguishes Barack Obama's position on immigration from the rest of the field?

Although a number of Democratic candidates have demonstrated interest in immigration issues during this election cycle, Barack Obama stands out. First, as an Illinois State Senator and a U.S. Senator, Obama has led in seeking sensible, comprehensive immigration reform that would serve the interests of the American people and help immigrants become productive members of American society. He has also taken clear positions on key aspects of immigration policy that demonstrate his core principles in this area. For example, during the recent debate over immigration policy, he emphasized preserving family unity as a touchstone of our immigration policy. He has unambiguously supported state policies that provide access to driver's licenses because of public health and public safety imperatives. Furthermore, he has established a high-level working group within his campaign to analyze more complex issues in immigration policy, such as improving how the federal government is organized to implement effective migration policy, and combining improved training and education opportunities for U.S. workers with immigration reforms that attract skilled workers. In his policy proposals and public pronouncements, he has shown an uncommon recognition of the connections between immigration policy and other critical issues that our country faces, such as trust in government and security.

Why is immigration reform such a critical issue in this election cycle?

Our immigration policy has always been central in defining our country. But in recent years, it has become one of the nation's most pressing issues. We have over ten million nationals of other countries without visas. We have a system that fails to focus scarce resources on genuine security threats. Our existing policies also create massive backlogs, neglect the needs of local communities and businesses, and exacerbate humanitarian problems. Surveys indicate that the majority of Americans believe that fixing our existing system requires a number of key reforms, including the creation of a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who pay a fine, as well as strengthening security and managing the demand for migration. Our national conversation about immigration should be an example of how Americans can deliberate respectfully about a major challenge. But our failure to address existing concerns with sensible reforms means an ever larger population of undocumented immigrants living in the shadow, further polarizing opinion and creating divisions that may become far more difficult to bridge over time.

Can you point to specific issues that Obama has shown leadership on that demonstrate his commitment to Latinos?

Barack Obama has spent his career fighting to help people share in the American dream. He deeply understands, and is intensely committed to addressing, major policy challenges facing Latinos, including immigration, health care, criminal justice, and the role of the military. He was an architect of efforts in Illinois to better integrate new permanent residents and citizens into the web of communities and professional opportunities that can foster a productive role in society. To help immigrants attain their full measure of promise as educated citizens in a democratic society, he passed the Illinois version of the DREAM Act and has supported the DREAM Act in the U.S. Senate. He called national attention to an unacceptably high Latino dropout rate, and called on Congress and the American people to reconsider harsh mandatory minimum sentences of dubious value that often disproportionately impact African Americans and Latinos. And perhaps most important, he has focused attention on these issues during a campaign that might have otherwise neglected them.

[EMBED]

Testimonial from Teno Villareal of San Antonio, Texas

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Reasons to vote for Barack Obama (2007-11-21 11:23)

Reasons to vote for Barack Obama (Top Ten) 1. Barack has experience with poverty. His mother was on food stamps at times. He can empathize with the struggles of the poor.

2. After graduating from Cornell, he left a corporate job to become a community organizer. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he practiced civil rights law rather than corporate law.

3. Barack was a professor teaching constitutional law. He has displayed respect for the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and for human and civil rights in general. People died for their rights in the past, but there are some willing to sacrifice them to feel a bit more secure.

4. He has demonstrated an ability to work on both sides of the aisle. He carries less baggage than the other front-runners that is likely to polarize. Therefore, he offers the best hope at breaking the existing gridlock in Congress.

5. He opposed the Iraq war before it started and has a specific plan for redeploying all combat troops by March 31, 2008.

6. Barack will talk to enemies as well as friends, and will reinstate a policy of diplomacy.

7. Barack has committed to providing universal health care. He has a realistic plan for the near-term.

8. He has a plan for significant reductions in greenhouse emissions with target dates and a considerable government investment (\$150 billion) in promoting new green technology.

9. His experience growing up and as an adult gives him the experience to deal effectively with the diversity of the country. He has one of the most diverse staffs in the Senate. His support is very broad from the fullest spectrum of society.

10. Barack Obama is highly intelligent as shown by his academic record and his very well-written and thoughtful books.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



cwilcox (2007-11-22 07:11:00)

I had to stop in to say Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you and yours have a fantastic day. I'm thankful for your site and thankful that Obama gives us the "Audacity of Hope"

Enjoy!

Paul Kekai Manansala (2007-11-23 10:51:00)

Hope you had a happy Thanksgiving!

Time Portraits of Barack Obama (2007-11-23 10:51)

Time magazine has a nice photo essay on Barack Obama :



Callie Shell / Aurora for TIME

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

NH primary (2007-11-23 15:47)

"Why I'm supporting Barack Obama" (2007-11-24 15:58)

Need more reasons to vote for Barack Obama? Check out this column from a DailyKos diarist:



"Why I'm supporting Barack Obama"

With only about 40 days left until the Iowa caucuses, it's time for all of us who have been undecided to start making up our minds. As voters, we have the privilege of waiting until stepping into the voting

booths to make our choice. As activists, though, it's up to us to drive the direction of the primaries. For me, that means deciding who I'm going to support and then working to make it happen.

Last year, I've volunteered my time to Ned Lamont during the CT-Sen primary and to Patrick Murphy in the general election (of which many reports about my time there can be found in my diary history). This year, there's a lot more at stake - a choice that could define our country for a generation. We have a great field of candidates on our side, and any of them would be far better than the GOP candidate. But the one candidate who will drastically change America for the better and will turn the Democratic Party into the dominant political party for the foreseeable future is Barack Obama. Of that, there is no question in my mind now.

...Of the serious candidates, Obama is the only one whom I feel has been consistently liberal during his lifetime...

...his record as a community organizer, as one of the most liberal state senators in Illinois, and his ability to communicate a vision of progressive politics that appeals far beyond the left side of the political spectrum speaks to a generational talent not seen since the Kennedys in the 1960s. While rhetoric and campaign speeches are just words, I feel that he would be able to pass policies this country needs - universal health care, proper immigration reform, and so forth - quite easily because he knows how to talk with people - not to them - on issues in the proper context. He's also the candidate that I inherently trust the most. There are qualms with the other candidates that sometimes make it difficult for me to believe what they are saying, but with Obama, I trust that he is saying what he thinks - and he means it...

...The last reason, strangely enough, comes from John Edwards. It was in one of the debates, or possibly on the campaign trail, but he urges people to 'vote with their hearts'. Obama's background - a person of multiracial background who has lived around the world and overcame great odds to succeed - appeals to me (similarly, a person of mixed ethnicity who has lived in a few different places around the country and the world) as well. He represents a break from America's past, one where everyone - no matter how they look or where they come from - has the opportunity to make it in this country. In a time where it seems increasingly less and less that this is true, it would instill a great sense of hope and pride if he were to become president. No longer would American politics be about cynicism, which it seems to have been since the assassinations of the 1960s and the fallout from Watergate. Instead, it would be about what can be done to right the wrongs that exist - not about what wrongs will inevitably happen as a result of the government. I don't think that a simple slogan, such as "The Audacity of Hope", is a cure-all. But I do believe it helps to live the words you speak, and Obama has done that.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama touts health care plan in Council Bluffs (2007-11-24 20:28)

Sen. Barack Obama speaks in Council Bluffs, Iowa today about how his health care plan is different from that of Hillary Clinton and John Edwards.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Things looking up for Obama in Iowa (2007-11-25 11:42)

Long-suffering Obama poll-watchers have been getting some bright news lately in Iowa where Obama is looking very well-organized.

Hope is up that Obama can in some way or another pull out a "win" in Iowa that gives him momentum going into the next state, now possibly New Hampshire rather than Nevada.

Yes, New Hampshire looks like it will hold the nation's first primary on Jan. 8 only five days after the Iowa caucus. That's not a lot of time to build on the momentum of any success in Iowa.

However, much of the impetus from an early win is psychological with people throwing their bets toward whoever is winning or perceived as coming from behind.

If they should do well in Iowa, one strategy would be to blast this success over the New Hampshire airwaves particularly on available television slots.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-11-25 23:27)

Barack Obama unveiled his education plan in New Hampshire today.

[EMBED]

Jason Kamras, the 2005 national Teacher of the Year, commented on Barack's plan:

Education is, in my estimation, the civil rights and national security issue of our time and Obama has demonstrated through this plan that he has the bold and visionary leadership that our public schools – and our children – deserve.

The main points of the proposal are:

- Reform No Child Left Behind.
- Ensure access to high-quality early childhood education programs and child care opportunities so children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Work to place effective teachers in every classroom in America, especially those in high-poverty, high-minority areas.
- Reward effective teachers for taking on challenging assignments and helping children succeed.
- Support highly-effective principals and school leaders.
- Make science and math education a national priority.
- Reduce the high school dropout rate by focusing on proven methods to improve student achievement and enhance graduation and higher education opportunities.
- Close the achievement gap and invest in what works.
- Empower parents to raise healthy and successful children by taking a greater role in their child's education at home and at school.

Read the full speech given in Manchester.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oprah joins Obama on bus tour (2007-11-26 10:28)



Oprah Winfrey is confirmed to stump with Barack Obama in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, the Obama campaign has announced. While experts may be divided on the "Oprah Factor," the Obama camp appears positive about the star's appeal.

Oprah is known for her Midas Touch in the world of entertainment, and may be the biggest star to campaign actively for a presidential campaign since Frank Sinatra helped John F. Kennedy, and then, switching parties, aided Ronald Reagan in winning office.

Over the decades, Oprah has gained a loyal following who trust her judgment on things like books and films, but this is her first venture into the world of politics.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Historians for Obama (2007-11-26 16:52)

Sen. Barack Obama got support today from a group of historians working in academia. The endorsement includes many Ivy League professors. Here is there official statement:

Historians for Obama

Joyce Appleby, David Blight, Edward J. Blum, Clayborne Carson, Dennis C. Dickerson, W. Marvin Dulaney, James Grossman, Nancy A. Hewitt, Jonathan Holloway, Randal Jelks, Robert KC Johnson, Michael Kazin, Steven Lawson, James Livingston, Ralph E. Luker, James McPherson, Albert J. Raboteau, Edward B. Rugemer, Nick Salvatore, Daniel J. Singal, Harvard Sitkoff, Daniel Soyer, Paul Spickard, Siva Vaidhyanathan, Craig Steven Wilder, David W. Wills

Our country is in serious trouble. The gap between the wealthy elite and the working majority grows ever larger, tens of millions of Americans lack health insurance and others risk bankruptcy when they get seriously ill, and many public schools do a poor job of educating the next generation. Due to the arrogant, inept foreign policy of the current administration, more people abroad mistrust and fear the United States than at any time since the height of the Vietnam War. Meanwhile, global warming speeds toward an unprecedented catastrophe. Many Republicans and overwhelming numbers of Independents and Democrats believe that, under George W. Bush, the nation has badly lost its way. The 2008 election thus comes at a critical time in the history of the United States and the world.

We endorse Barack Obama for president because we think he is the candidate best able to address and start to solve these profound problems. As historians, we understand that no single individual, even a

president, leads alone or outside a thick web of context. As Abraham Lincoln wrote to a friend during the Civil War, "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me."

However, a president *can* alter the mood of the nation, making changes possible that once seemed improbable. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and kept the nation united; Franklin D. Roosevelt persuaded Americans to embrace Social Security and more democratic workplaces; John F. Kennedy advanced civil rights and an anti-poverty program.

Barack Obama has the potential to be that kind of president. He has the varied background of a global citizen: his father was African, his stepfather Indonesian, his mother worked in the civil rights movement, and he spent several years of his childhood overseas. As an adult, he has been a community organizer, a law professor, and a successful politician - both at the state and national level. These experiences have given him an acute awareness of the inequalities of race and class, while also equipping him to speak beyond them.

Obama's platform is ambitious, yet sensible. He calls for negotiating the abolition of nuclear weapons, providing universal and affordable health insurance, combatting poverty by adding resources and discouraging destructive habits, investing in renewable energy sources, and engaging with unfriendly nations to ease conflicts that could otherwise lead to war. He takes more forthright stands on these issues than do his major Democratic competitors.

But it is his qualities of mind and temperament that really separate Obama from the rest of the pack. He is a gifted writer and orator who speaks forcefully but without animus. Not since John F. Kennedy has a Democrat candidate for president showed the same combination of charisma and thoughtfulness - or provided Americans with a symbolic opportunity to break with a tradition of bigotry older than the nation itself. Like Kennedy, he also inspires young people who see him as a great exception in a political world that seems mired in cynicism and corruption.

As president, Barack Obama would only begin the process of healing what ails our society and ensuring that the U.S. plays a beneficial role in the world. But we believe he is that rare politician who can stretch the meaning of democracy, who can help revive what William James called "the civic genius of the people." We invite other historians to add your name to this statement. You can do so by contacting mk8@georgetown.edu and/or Ralph Luker, ralphluker@mindspring.com.

Joyce Appleby, University of California, Los Angeles*

David Blight, Yale University

Edward J. Blum, San Diego State University

Clayborne Carson, Stanford University

Dennis C. Dickerson, Vanderbilt University

W. Marvin Dulaney, College of Charleston

James Grossman, Newberry Library

Nancy A. Hewitt, Rutgers University

Jonathan Holloway, Yale University

Randal Jelks, Calvin College

Robert KC Johnson, Brooklyn College

Michael Kazin, Georgetown University

Steven Lawson, Rutgers University

James Livingston, Rutgers University

Ralph E. Luker, *Cliopatria*

James McPherson, Princeton University

Albert J. Raboteau, Princeton University

Edward B. Rugemer, Yale University

Nick Salvatore, Cornell University

Daniel J. Singal, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Harvard Sitkoff, University of New Hampshire
Daniel Soyer, Fordham University
Paul Spickard, University of California, Santa Barbara
Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia
Craig Steven Wilder, Dartmouth College
David W. Wills, Amherst College

*Institutional affiliations are listed for identification purposes only and, of course, do not indicate an institutional endorsement.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama Foreign Policy Forum in New Hampshire (2007-11-26 19:55)

Sarah Sewall, Faculty Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, cross-posted a message on barack-obama.com, DailyKos, Blue Hampshire for Obama's foreign policy forum in New Hampshire Tuesday.



I've spent a career in foreign policy and national security, but it doesn't take an expert to know that after eight years of the Bush Administration's narrow-minded foreign policy and disastrous war in Iraq, our next president will urgently face enormous challenges in restoring America's global leadership.

We must renew America's image and show a new face to the world after eight years of alienating our allies and refusing to engage our enemies.

We must end a misguided war and restore a military stretched to the breaking point by a war that has already cost hundreds of billions of dollars and thousands of lives while distracting us from the real threat of Al-Qaeda and making us less safe.

We must reclaim our nation's values by rejecting torture and the violation of our civil liberties, and by trusting in our Constitution and proud legacy of individual freedoms.

We must proactively and patiently use all of our nation's strength - diplomatic, economic, and intelligence - to lead the world instead of relying solely upon military power because we ignored or rejected other options.

We must rebuild strong alliances and rally international action to combat the common enemies of the 21st - terrorism and nuclear weapons, poverty and disease, genocide and climate change.

We must genuinely redefine American leadership and challenge conventional Washington thinking, so that hope triumphs over fear in a world with real danger and unconventional challenges.

This is what America needs, and it will take bold leadership to meet this challenge. I'm supporting Senator Barack Obama because he has the courage, the judgment, and the vision to achieve these goals, and to meet the unanticipated new challenges that are certain to arise. True leadership is based upon courage, not driven by fear. True leadership calls us to our better selves, to come together, and to summon our collective courage to create the world we wish for. Barack Obama has proven that he understands our changing world, thinks unconventionally, speaks forthrightly, and fights for his ideals. On the day he is inaugurated, he will fundamentally transform the way the world thinks about America, and what we expect of ourselves.

Barack Obama is the leader who will speak directly to nations and peoples disillusioned with America's policies. His life both abroad and here at home reflects his deep understanding of the universal human struggle for dignity and security. He recognizes that our security and future are increasingly linked to those of others. And Obama knows that America cannot just stand against terrorism, it must stand for freedom, hope and opportunity for all and for common security and international stability.

He offers a comprehensive foreign policy vision that combines national values and interests and reflects America at its best. He has developed concrete policies and initiatives to fulfill that vision - from doubling investment in international economic development and helping others build prosperity and peace; to calling Americans to service and launching a new era of American diplomacy; to creating a Shared Security Partnership to fight terrorism and training other nations to protect their citizens; to helping secure all loose nuclear materials and leading toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama offers smart, strong, and sustainable policy alternatives at this crucial juncture in our history. Not only did he have the courage and judgment to oppose the Iraq War from the start; his plan to end that war reflects understanding of the broader regional context and America's long-term interests. Not only is he standing up to the saber-rattling toward Iran; he's offering a credible alternative path to security through vigorous presidential diplomacy.

Obama's foreign policy represents not just a break from the Bush-Cheney years of failed foreign policy, but from the decades of conventional thinking that led us to this perilous moment in our history.

It is no coincidence that one of the most secretive Administrations in history has pursued disastrous and deceitful international policies. This stands in stark contrast to Barack Obama's commitment to openness

and his honesty about where he stands on the tough issues. Consistent with this commitment, Obama will host a foreign policy forum with New Hampshire residents on Tuesday, November 27th.

The forum will bring together scholars and soldiers, national security experts and university professors, for a participatory discussion with New Hampshire voters about the foreign policy challenges we face and the kind of leadership and action it will take to tackle them.

There, Senator Obama and I will be joined by leading local and national Obama advisors and foreign policy experts, all of whom share my belief that it's time for a fundamental change in our foreign policy - time for a 21st century vision that replaces empty threats with smart, tough diplomacy, and regains our moral leadership by staying true to the values and ideals on which America was built. Panels will feature:

- Richard Danzig - Former Secretary of the Navy under President Clinton
- Tony Lake - National Security Advisor to President Clinton
- Adm. John Hutson (USN Ret.) - Bow, NH resident; Dean of Franklin Pierce Law Center; former U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General and nationally-known expert on detention and interrogation policy
- Samantha Power - Pulitzer Prize-winning author and renowned professor of human rights and foreign policy
- Susan Rice - Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
- Gen. Jim Smith (USAF Ret.) - Salem, NH resident; retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General
- Ryan Gray (USMC Ret.) - Goffstown, NH resident; served two tours in Iraq with the Marine Corps

I hope you can join us online for this important discussion about our nation's security challenges and how Barack Obama's strength and vision can help create a safer and more hopeful world.

Please join us tomorrow at 11:00 am for a live broadcast at nh.barackobama.com/fpforum

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack discusses foreign policy with expert panel (2007-11-27 09:47)

Barack Obama is holding a live foreign policy forum as I write this blog.

They have discussed issues like Iraq and Iran, and the need for greater cultural sensitivity and knowledge in foreign policy and service.

Obama has mentioned his international experience growing up with an African father, and Indonesian stepfather and living for years in Indonesia.

You can watch it live at nh.barackobama.com/fpforum

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2007-11-27 09:47)

Barack Obama is holding a live foreign policy forum as I write this blog. They have discussed issues like Iraq and Iran, and the need for

(2007-11-27 17:18)

ObamaGirl: Why Obama? (2007-11-27 17:31)

When I received an email offering an exclusive on the new ObamaGirl video, I was hesitant. However, this clip is in good taste and light-hearted.

BarelyPolitical.com produces political humor videos that are sometimes a bit on the edge.

Here is the new video:



IFRAME: <http://asiapacificuniverse.com/obamag.htm>

<http://www.why08.org/index.php?s=viewpost &postid=8746>

Comments?

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama in Iowa (2007-11-27 23:04)

Michelle Obama will be appearing in Iowa as Oprah and Barack travel to New Hampshire and South Carolina. Here is her schedule:

Meet and Greet with Michelle Obama in Ottumwa

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 @ 10:15am

Ottumwa, IA

Meet and Greet with Michelle Obama in Centerville

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 @ 12:30pm

Centerville, IA

Meet and Greet with Michelle Obama in Corydon

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 @ 2:30pm

Corydon, IA

Meet and Greet with Michelle Obama in Indianola

Wednesday, November 28, 2007 @ 7:45pm

Indianola, IA

West Des Moines Office Opening with Michelle Obama

Thursday, November 29, 2007 @ 2:00pm

West Des Moines, IA

A new Caucus Center is also live on barackobama.com teaching supporters about the caucus process:

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama aiming for Feb. 5? (2007-11-28 11:51)

A Washington Post article claims the Obama campaign may be looking for victory on Feb. 5 as much as winning the early states.

Obama has 19 offices in different early states, much less than his total in Iowa alone, but again much more than total five offices of her leading opponent Hillary Clinton. This can be taken to indicate that the Obama camp believes things may not be over after polls are done in the four early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

On Feb. 5, known as "Super Duper Tuesday" or "Tsunami Tuesday" some 20 states will hold primary elections.

Obama is generally less well-known in these states as compared to Clinton. It may be that Obama's belief in grassroots campaigning is driving the investment in Super Duper Tuesday states. It's difficult to start up a person-to-person campaign in a short span of time, as compared to simply launching a television ad blitz.

By opening offices in these states, Obama may be showing his community organizing background and his experience in the importance of making personal contact.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Campaign opens Utah office (2007-11-28 17:22)

More evidence that Barack Obama is looking toward Super Duper Tuesday in case the early states do not decide the winner. The campaign is opening an office in Utah, not usually a prime Democratic primary state.

I have a feeling the offices also help with the grassroots fundraising effort. Everyday supporters often contribute more, both monetary and in-kind contributions, when they are actively involved in a ground campaign.

Video highlights from the Obama Foreign Policy Forum "The Judgment to Lead" [EMBED]

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

PunditMom: Oprah and Obama (2007-11-28 23:50)

PunditMom: Oprah and Obama

PunditMom says:

It's one thing to take her advice for which book is going to sit on our nightstands or which shows she thinks will hit with American audiences. But I have a feeling politics may be taking Oprah's fiefdom a bit too far. This one has "backfire" written all over it. To me, it seems like Oprah is trying to take her influence a bit too far. It's one thing to have fund-raisers and support a candidate. But for some reason it just doesn't feel right to have the queen of daytime TV stumping for a candidate and bestowing the official Oprah seal of approval.

However, all the candidates have supporters from all walks of life stumping for them, why should it be any different when Oprah is involved?

There was news, for example, that Hillary Clinton is having Barbara Streisand help out in her campaign. John Edwards is using Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne.

All the candidates have called on elected official supporters to stump for them in the early states.

At the very least, it may help bring some new people out to see Barack who might not have come sans Oprah.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



PunditMom (2007-12-05 09:53:00)

The difference is Oprah's expectation that everything she touches Americans will go along with. There is no other celebrity who is able to elevate something or someone to star status like Oprah. Of course it is her right to support and help any candidate she chooses. But she knows her power and impact and I am sure she thinks her fans will follow simply because of her stamp of approval.

CA Assembly leader Karen Bass touts Obama (2007-11-29 11:25)

From the official barackobama.com site, California Assembly leader Karen Bass tells why she is supporting Barack Obama:

I have spent the last 30 years working to improve the quality of life for people throughout California. As a social justice activist, I've worked to bridge disparity gaps by developing and implementing solutions to make a difference. Over the years, one of my main goals was to ensure that every voice is heard, especially those from the most vulnerable communities.

When I was just a teenager, I got involved in community organizing and from then it became a major part of my personal and professional life. As a physician assistant at the nation's largest trauma center I witnessed first-hand the despair and violence unleashed by the crack cocaine epidemic. I used my organizing experience to found the Community Coalition, a direct response to the devastation of the drug epidemic. Today, the organization is recognized as a national model for grassroots organizing and a center for training the next generation of social justice activists and leaders.



After 13 years of leading the Community Coalition, I took state office representing the 47th Assembly District. Last year, I was appointed the Majority Leader for the California State Assembly during the 2007-2008 legislative session, making me the first African American and the first woman to hold this leadership position.

As an elected official, community leader and a social activist, I did not hesitate to endorse Senator Barack Obama. As a community activist, he helped build coalitions to empower residents to fight for change. As a state legislator, he worked with law enforcement to pass a law that required interrogations and confessions in all capital cases to be video taped after a number of inmates on death row were found innocent. He has a proven commitment to education and working families.

As a Senator, he has shown true leadership while dealing with our country's domestic and foreign policy concerns. He has consistently opposed the war in Iraq. He is the candidate who will end the war as well as ensure that the country uses those wasted funds to address poverty issues throughout the nation.

I am confident that he will inspire thousands of new voters to go to the polls because we are all ready for change. Senator Obama reminds all of us that hope can move us forward. I am proud to serve on the Obama for America National Diversity Advisory Council and as the chair of the California African Americans for Obama Campaign. And I am thrilled to be a part of the Women for Obama Campaign.

Majority Leader Karen Bass

California State Assembly

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-01-05 04:50:32)

Your blog keeps getting better and better! Your older articles are not as good as newer ones you have a lot more creativity and originality now keep it up!

More on Obama's "Grassroots Tuesday" (2007-11-29 13:10)

The more I think about it, the more it appears Barack Obama is preparing for the possibility of a big showdown on Feb5. or "Tsunami Tuesday."

Obama is laying out the infrastructure to win using the grassroots approach reaching people with phone banks, canvassing, tabling, rallies, etc.

Obviously he still wants to do very well in the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. He particularly is putting a lot of emphasis in Iowa.

But his 19 offices in Feb. 5 states as compared to five for Hillary Clinton indicate how serious a ground campaign he is planning.

For example, here in California, the Obama camp has divided the whole state into congressional districts with one committee for each district. This is not just for show. They've been holding meetings and arranging direct voter contact activities.

Now, even in the last general election for president, there wasn't this kind of organization for Kerry-Edwards.

Some people might think it a waste of money to attempt something on this scale. The common strategy would be to dump nearly all one's cash in the early states and then hope for the best.

That might not be the most effective way of leveraging Obama's grassroots support though. He has many young supporters who don't have much or anything monetary-wise to contribute campaign. They might be willing to volunteer, however, with their time and effort.

Barack speaks out on healthcare [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama at the Apollo (2007-11-29 19:48)

Sen. Barack Obama invaded Hillary Clinton territory today selling out the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem and meeting with African American leader Al Sharpton.

Clinton and Obama are locked in a battle for the black vote that will play an important role in South Carolina and many other states particularly in the South.

The \$50-a-head fundraiser sold out the Apollo, which has a capacity of 1,400 people.

Sharpton and Obama had dinner at the soul food restaurant Silvia's after which Sharpton denied he was yet endorsing Obama. He did say that he and Obama "have been talking."

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Barack Obama Biography (2007-11-30 09:20)

Barack Obama was born on Aug. 4, 1961 to Barack Hussein Obama of Kenya and Ann Dunham of Kansas. His parents met in Hawai'i and divorced when Barack was still young. Barack's father was from the Luo people of Kenya coming as a scholar to study in the United States. His mother was also an intellectual, an anthropologist by training.



His mother remarried to Indonesian Lolo Soetoro and the family moved to Indonesia when Barack was six years old. He has one sister, Maya, the daughter of Lolo and Ann. At the age of 10, Barack returned to live with his grandparents in Hawai'i.

He became a student at the prestigious Punahou School in Honolulu and after graduating studied at Occidental College in California before transferring to Columbia University in New York. He graduated with a B.A. in political science and specialization in international relations.

After working a short while with a corporation, Barack decided to follow his calling and took a low-paying job as a community organizer in Chicago, a city he had never lived in before.

After working a few years at community organizing, he entered Harvard Law School in 1988. Obama has stated that he believed that in order to effect real change, someone had to work at the political level. He became the first African American president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review and completed his J.D. degree with magna cum laude honors in 1991.

Rather than accept corporate job offers, Obama became a civil rights lawyer with Miner, Barnhill & Galland from 1993 to 1996. In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. He also was a lecturer in constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School from 1994 until his election to the U.S. Senate in 2004.

In the Illinois State Senate, Barack worked on ethics and health care reform, and sponsored legislation improving tax credits for low-income workers. He negotiated welfare reform, and better subsidies for child care. Obama also played the key role in legislation requiring videotaping of homicide interrogations, and a law to monitor racial profiling.

In 2004, during his bid for the U.S. Senate, Obama gave the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic Convention.

As a U.S. Senator, Obama is a Veteran Affairs Committee member. He has championed legislation on redeployment of troops out of Iraq, increased government accountability, veteran's benefits and care, nuclear non-proliferation, energy independence and global warming action.

In 2007, Barack Obama announced his candidacy for President of the United States. He has mounted an impressive grassroots campaign up to Nov. 2007.

He married his wife Michelle in 1992 and has two daughters, Malia and Sasha. In 2004, he published an autobiography, *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. His second book, *The Audacity of Hope*, was published in 2006. Barack lives with his family on Chicago's South Side where they attend Trinity United Church of Christ.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



concerned about America (2008-02-09 23:16:00)

Barack is not a practical choice and here is my argument in a nutshell. Anyone who knows anything about democratic politics knows that if a lot of "pricey" celebs are backing you its for a reason. For those of you who may be a bit in the dark, I thought I should remind you that Oprah and the many, many others who are dishing out the cash aren't exactly the working class citizens and tend to like Barack's policies for a reason....not because he plans to tax the hell out of them..that's for sure. Lets face it, the disparity between poverty and middle class is closing and Barack, aside from oweing favors to many people who may have gotten him in office, is not going to help the disparity. A good speaker yes.. I fully agree;however,I'll take Hillary because she is clearly the better of the two. Please, before you vote, do some research and don't get caught in the above average media coverage. Our national media also follows Brittney Spears close, so would you vote for her?

Anonymous (2008-02-11 23:29:00)

?. are you saying that barack obama's presidency will owe favors to oprah? hillary is looking more ridiculous and less presidential every day with her bitterness and ill-wrought reactionary campaign. "don't get caught in the above average media coverage"...what in the world do you even mean? barack is smarter, more appealing, more electable, has more forward thinking policies, and would actually beat mccain in a general election, whereas hillary would not. i'd encourage you to not be caught up in the press the clinton campaign churns out, and look objectively at all factors. as far as a "practical choice" goes, if you're interested in your candidate winning the white house, the answer is obama.

ed (2008-02-12 11:37:00)

What is obama's religious affiliation? I hear he is muslim. Is this true?

Anonymous (2008-05-08 20:16:00)

Why OBAMA not qualify to be a president!

He can't even tell anything about his pastor for which he associated with for over 20 years. How can he make dicision as a commander and chief of the US? not to mention he can make a good one. A poor dicision to stick with a bunch of physcos and just simply said I didn't know anything about it -is no the kind of person anyone want to rule or run the country. It is plain STUPID! the world will be burning b/c we vote a stupid person to be a president.

Also if he didnt distance himself from these physcos b/c he kind of believe them. Then why would we want this kind of person to be a president? This the hightest of honor and the most important job of all. Why would someone with this kind of background or story deserve to be in such important position?

If he only hang out with these phsycos for 20years and now he is not or that he didnt know anything about it -then you just simply said those people who hang out the Osama Bin Leden one time can simply come back and be our presient b/c he didnt know anything about bin Leden??

The OBAMA guy is jut too much. With this kind of credential — I don't know how he got to be a US senator.

American people WAKE UP, don't be stupid about this.

Patricia (2008-06-23 09:15:00)

I heard that Barack Obama is actually an Irish citizen or is at least of partial Irish descent, and that he changed his name from Bearach O'Bama to make him sound more ethnically appealing in the United States. Does anyone have more information about this?

Patricia in Dublin, Ireland

united we stand? (2008-06-24 08:44:00)

I have not heard about him being "Irish" and I am not concerned about his heritage. I believe everyone in America should

have their chance to make their dreams come true..black, hispanic, white, indian etc as long as they abide by the country's laws (including paying taxes which means working for a living!) Race should not matter if we are all united but unfortunately we are not. My ? is WHY? This is where I find fault in Obama. In a debate with Mrs. Clinton, Obama could not bring himself to say the word white. Charlie Gibson actually called him out on it saying "you mean white people". How can we vote a man or woman in as president of the United States of America if he/she cannot overcome their own racism. Which brings me to Oprah..someone who would never "allow" herself to go public on her political choice UNTIL a partial black man was on the ticket!?!? Interesting..don't you think?

Anonymous (2008-07-07 08:21:00)

I will vote and support any candidate that does the following (In this order):

- 1.) Stands for the underprivileged, the children, the infants, the ones that can't protect themselves.
- 2.) Clearly and distinctly states their beliefs, and does not sway from that belief.
- 3.) Will support and honor a belief in the Christian faith and will uphold the entire scripture as the word of God.

Unfortunately, Obama has none of these qualities.

There are better candidates.

Anonymous (2008-07-07 10:12:00)

I thought I would point out a few areas of Change that we should expect with the new presidential candidate.

Since we hear we need a CHANGE, I did some easy research to understand what change we were looking at.....

I don't know that I discovered the real change we are to receive, but I did walk away with a few questions that I had after doing some light reading are noted below:

- 1) What religion is Barack Obama?
- 2) Does he stand for and defend America (the United States)?
- 3) What is likely to really Change?
- 4) What Real Qualifications does he have?

I couldn't find answers to all of these, but found some easy indicators and noted some information below for the interested voter.

Answers

1 & 2) He is not a Christian, as I was raised to know all true Christians would not debate truths of the bible. You stand on the Jesus' salvation and the bible as the cornerstones of a religious Christian faith. Obama has defiled this belief in only accepting portions of the bible as truth, so I will just ask, what religion does he place his foundation.

Apparently a belief that life is not precious and made by God ... he clearly states on his own web page that he is an abortion supporter ([url:http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/womenissues](http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/womenissues)).

Therefore life is not precious, and God's creation is not precious.

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Supports a Woman's Right to Choose:

Barack Obama understands that abortion is a divisive issue, and respects those who disagree with him. However, he has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority as President. He opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in that case.

He proclaims he has stayed with his Christian church (and pastor) for 20 years, but he just recently turned on this pastor as the vulgar and racist pastor to have used curse words toward his the USA (<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/DemocraticDebate/story?id=4443788&page=1>).

Sen. Barack Obama's pastor says blacks should not sing "God Bless America" but "God damn America."

He admits to staying with this church for 20 years and sitting in the pulpit as his pastor continued this preaching. He compares him to an uncle that you let rant.

I wouldn't sit in a church that talked about my country, my god, and the races of the world in this manner. But, I will admit I am not presidential.

So, is his faith built upon this pastor, since he is using him as a reference for his relationship with Jesus? Does he represent this reference to help us believe he is a Christian and then turn against it because he doesn't want us to believe he is anti-American?

3) What change is he going with? Should we be ready to accept his doctrine as truth, since it "Changes" when it suits him?

I would ask each of you one serious question:

4) If you were going to hire a CEO of your company, and you could be the HR screener of this resume.... Would the following resume impress you to hire Obama as your CEO (or Chairman of the Board/President... etc)?

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Barack Obama's Experience

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/barackobama>

US Senator

US Senate (IL-D)

(Government Administration industry)

January 2005 — Present (3 years 7 months) (WOW 3 & ½ Years of US Senator Experience - Couldn't make it through one entire term in DC)

In the U.S. Senate, I have sought to focus on tackling the challenges of a globalized, 21st century world with fresh thinking and a politics that no longer settles for the lowest common denominator.

(WHAT DOES THAT MEAN??)

.

Senior Lecturer in Law

University of Chicago Law School

(Educational Institution; 501-1000 employees; Law Practice industry)

1993 — 2004 (11 years) (Well he taught for 11 years – that seems equivalent to running the largest power on the GLOBE)

.

State Senator

Illinois State Senate

(Legislative Office industry)

1997 — 2004 (7 years) (7 Years of STATE Senator Experience)

Proudly representing the 13th District on Chicago's south side.

» » » » » AND YES IT ENDS THERE » » » » »

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Consider an Opposing (and Intelligent) View on Abortion (John McCain's view) <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/95b18512-d5b6-456e-90a2-12028d71df58.htm>

Overturning Roe v. Wade

John McCain believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as president he will nominate judges who understand that courts should not be in the business of legislating from the bench.

Constitutional balance would be restored by the reversal of Roe v. Wade, returning the abortion question to the individual states. The difficult issue of abortion should not be decided by judicial fiat.

However, the reversal of Roe v. Wade represents only one step in the long path toward ending abortion. Once the question is returned to the states, the fight for life will be one of courage and compassion - the courage of a pregnant mother to bring her child into the world and the compassion of civil society to meet her needs and those of her newborn baby. The pro-life movement has done tremendous work in building and reinforcing the infrastructure of civil society by strengthening faith-based, community, and neighborhood organizations that provide critical services to pregnant mothers in need. This work must continue and government must find new ways to empower and strengthen these armies of compassion. These important groups can help build the consensus necessary to end abortion at the state level. As John McCain has publicly noted, "At its core, abortion is a human tragedy. To effect meaningful change, we must engage the debate at a human level."

Anonymous (2008-10-29 02:22:00)

Well, the big day is here.

The big day when Obama, in concert, literally, with the Leftist Media, tries to make his

case for why we should vote for him.

He still expects so many of us to believe him, even after him being one of the biggest LIARS, on the face of this planet, in ALL of human history.

Now that there's been uncovered, yet ANOTHER, of his Blatant and Obvious examples of his root and core Socialist ideological beliefs, and no doubt why they will NOT reveal his writings from his College / University years, he has more 'splainin to do.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he has, from at least 2001 or before, held the beliefs, as he was eager to explain in the 2001 radio interview, in which he SAID there should be MORE Redistribution (of wealth), and the SUPREME COURT (probably other courts too) SHOULD be MORE involved. And, in CONTRADICTION to the Constitution, AND he STILL expects us to NOT think he IS a Socialist? Not to mention, him apparently being hell bent on our Constitution NOT being followed, which he MUST take an Oath TO Uphold and Protect. HOW and WHY would / could, We The People, believe ANY oath HE would take, under ANY circumstances?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

SO, just as has been asked in many ways, in cross examinations, and by those who REALLY want to know, was he LYING, LYING, LYING THEN, or, is he LYING, LYING, LYING Now? Or, is he just a CONSTANT Psychopathic Lying Sociopath? In ANY case, Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Or, BOTH? It sure looks like it, more, and more, and more.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible, that 20 years in front of a "mentor" / Wright, was not enough for Obama to KNOW what Wright was all about, and hear and see the divisive anger and rage, which was demonstrated a number of times in sermons?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he is supposedly so well educated from his college and university years, that he is apparently NOT well read enough, or NOT in touch with RECENT American History, that he has no clue of who Ayers was?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he has any REAL sense of politics, or the REAL world around him, how is it that when he started to get involved with Ayers, and ESPECIALLY Ayers involved in Obama's political career, that Obama did NOT properly do research about Ayers, to make sure of who or what he was?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it's ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, since he was so involved with ACORN, but he did NOT apparently also know, or care about, the following:

(From <http://pajamasmedia.com/>)

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) is a community-based organization that advocates for low and moderate income families founded in 1970 by Wade Rathke and Gary Delgado. Rathke, one of the most powerful hard-Left activists in America, is a former member of a radical 1960s group, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The Weathermen terrorist group split off from the SDS in 1969. And,

Although the organization prides itself for its registration efforts, it also has a long history of scandal. In the state of Missouri in 1986, 12 ACORN members were convicted of voter fraud. But that case was not an isolated incident in the state. In December 2004, in St. Louis, six volunteers pleaded guilty of dozens of election law violations for filling out registration cards with names of dead people and other bogus information.

Authorities launched an earlier investigation after noticing that among the new voters was longtime St. Louis alderman Albert “Red” Villa, who died in 1990. The volunteers worked for “Operation Big Vote” — a branch of ACORN — in St. Louis.

On February 10, 2005, Nonaresa Montgomery, a paid worker who ran Operation Big Vote during the run-up to the 2001 mayoral primary, was found guilty of vote fraud. Montgomery hired about 30 workers to do fraudulent voter-registration canvassing. Instead of knocking on doors, the volunteers sat at a St. Louis fast food restaurant and wrote out names and information from an outdated voter list. About 1,500 fraudulent voter registration cards were turned in.

In October 2006, St. Louis election officials discovered at least 1,492 “potentially fraudulent” voter registration cards. They were all turned in by ACORN volunteers.

In November 2006, 20,000 to 35,000 questionable voter registration forms were turned in by ACORN officials in Missouri. Most all of these were from St. Louis and Kansas City areas, where ACORN purportedly sought to help empower the “disenfranchised” minorities living there. But the ACORN workers weren’t just told to register new voters. The workers admitted on camera that they were coached to tell registrants to vote for Democrat Claire McCaskill.

In 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri, four ACORN employees were indicted for fraud. In April of this year eight ACORN employees in St. Louis city and county pleaded guilty to federal election fraud for submitting bogus voter registrations.

And, that was just Missouri.

(The whole story: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-complete-guide-to-acorn-voter-fraud/>)

So, since Obama is supposedly so smart, HOW can it be he did NOT know ANY of this FRAUD history of ACORN?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it’s ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he is supposedly so smart, politically, or otherwise, HOW is it, he did not make sure of the ethicalness of his relationship and deals with Rezko? WHY did Obama not realize the potential, for even the appearance of scandal, let alone the ACTUAL deals we’re now aware of? Maybe because it’s so accepted in Chicago / Illinois corrupt street thug politics?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it’s ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he has ANY amount of understanding of economics, or our country’s financial mechanisms, he could NOT see the potential for disaster, with the KNOWN mismanagement, CORRUPTION, and artificial housing market success, being perpetrated by, and because of, Fannie, Freddie, and BAD legislation and requirements, for banks to make HIGH risk mortgages? Maybe because so many DEMOCRATS were ALREADY getting away with it.

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it’s ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, IF he had ANY inkling of Foreign Policy, or even reality in general, that it would be OK, to sit down with a KNOWN adversary, of ANY degree, to discuss, and TO NEGOTIATE, almost anything, would be done with NO preconditions, AND that ANY one, with an ounce of IQ, would ANNOUNCE ahead of time, their strategy, like, NO preconditions?

Obama is either sooooo INCOMPETENT, or it’s ANOTHER of his BIG LIES.

Can ANY amount of Obama bought air time, be enough for him to explain how it is possible that, . . . , well, I guess the list could go on and on. And, I probably have missed some things in my above chronology.

It all just comes down to this,

Obama is either sooooo absolutely, totally, INCOMPETENT, or,

he just, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES, LIES.
In EITHER case he WILL be one of the WORST presidents we'd EVER have.
Maybe that won't happen.

Navi Arora (2008-11-05 22:58:00)
Barack Obama's Official Blog

GMONEY (2008-12-28 12:44:00)

I guess what I find interesting about Obama's racial appeal is that, when I was growing up (I'm 44), African-Americans were anything BUT supportive of a man who's upbringing was not touched by an African-American (Uncle Tom, etc). Obama was raised strictly by white people (his mother, and grandparents), with the values AND AMBITION of those white people, etc. Further, he had little to no involvement with African Americans in his life as that population is next to zero in Hawaii. Coming from a white mother, and raised by (lets admit it, bigoted) white grandparents I think the real hidden story is NOT that whites accepted his candidacy, but that African Americans did! With that said, I hope the African American population realizes that "one of their own" has not been elected. That will take place when an individual who is brought up around, schooled by and raised by African Americans is elected President...and that has NOT taken place yet. Not even close. It is my hope that the African American community will not take Obama's election as some sort of accomplishment (as it is not for that ethnic group) but strive to achieve until one that is TRULY their own can call the highest office in the land their job. Now, what this SHOULD point out and signal is that we can now END affirmative action programs as the white population demonstrated en masse that we will actively participate in giving a job to the best man (or woman) for it. (Barrack, Hillary, Sarah, etc.) It has to happen sometime. If we are to see each other as equals (which is what Obama's election should signal) affirmative action HAS TO be eliminated...and lets get on to treating everything equally.

Anonymous (2009-01-19 17:13:00)

One thing everyone is forgetting, he's Mulatto-TERM FOR BIRACIAL/MIXED PEOPLE WITH HALF BLACK AND HALF WHITE BLOOD SO, he should be for EVERY race.
The world needs to refer to him as Mulatto not African-American.

Cacá - Brazil (2009-01-29 08:59:00)

Vou dizer uma coisinha; que monte de discursos fedidos e sem fundamento.que bando de discursos perdido por quem não defende uma real mudança , uma real autonomia da população americana.Por quem não defende uma real igualdade do povo americano.

Gente pare de falar besteiras.... não importa nada do que disseram , tudo bobagem , o que importa mesmo é o HOMEM ; sua qualificação , seus desejo de transformar essa politica de merda dos presidentes americanos que o passado os levem , essa politica de merda dos estados unidos que só tem olhos para a guerra e a destruição do planeta.Só tem olhos pra cima e não vê o sofrimento do povo miserável do mundo.

VIVA OBAMA , O SALVADOR DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

E PRONTO.

ELE VENCEU E A MUDANÇA IRÁ PREVALECER.

Anonymous (2009-08-05 09:10:00)

He born in Malaysia. Sand Moslems is not eligable to be president. He need to resign and let Bill Clinton be president.

Anonymous (2010-01-30 21:06:10)

hi guys so happy to be between you yayaay love the blog soo much ^^

Anonymous (2010-09-29 21:54:19)

I always motivated by you, your opinion and attitude, again, appreciate for this nice post.

- Murk

Admin (2011-01-06 10:15:46)

I will vote and support any candidate that does the following (In this order):

- 1.) Stands for the underprivileged, the children, the infants, the ones that can't protect themselves.
- 2.) Clearly and distinctly states their beliefs, and does not sway from that belief.
- 3.) Will support and honor a belief in the Christian faith and will uphold the entire scripture as the word of God.

Barack Obama Quotes (2007-11-30 10:37)

Barack Obama Quotes

- Obama Quotes on Climate Change
- Obama Quotes on the Iraq War
- Obama Quotes on Social Issues
- Obama Quotes on Education
- Obama Quotes on Politics
- Miscellaneous Obama quotes

Obama Quotes on Climate Change All across the world, in every kind of environment and region known to man, increasingly dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms are abruptly putting an end to the long-running debate over whether or not climate change is real. Not only is it real, it's here, and its effects are giving rise to a frighteningly new global phenomenon: the man-made natural disaster.

- Barack Obama

The issue of climate change is one that we ignore at our own peril. There may still be disputes about exactly how much we're contributing to the warming of the earth's atmosphere and how much is naturally occurring, but what we can be scientifically certain of is that our continued use of fossil fuels is pushing us to a point of no return. And unless we free ourselves from a dependence on these fossil fuels and chart a new course on energy in this country, we are condemning future generations to global catastrophe.

- Barack Obama

Today we're seeing that climate change is about more than a few unseasonably mild winters or hot summers. It's about the chain of natural catastrophes and devastating weather patterns that global warming is beginning to set off around the world.. the frequency and intensity of which are breaking records thousands of years old.

- Barack Obama

Obama Quotes on the Iraq War

"Why are you always reminding us that you opposed the war? Isn't that yesterday's news? Is that experience really relevant?" And what I always say is this – this isn't just about the past, it's about the future.

- Barack Obama

I didn't see the weapons of mass destruction at the time, I didn't think there was an imminent threat from Saddam Hussein.

- Barack Obama

I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war.

- Barack Obama

There are patriots who opposed the war in Iraq and there are patriots who supported the war in Iraq. We are one

people, all of us pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America.

- Barack Obama

We're not going to baby sit a civil war.

- Barack Obama

Obama Quotes on Social Issues We reward people a lot for being rich, for being famous, for being cute, for being thin... one of the values I think we need to instill in our country, in our children, is a sense of 'usefulness', in other words, are we useful, are we making other peoples' lives a little bit better?

- Barack Obama

My parents shared not only an improbable love, they shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation. They would give me an African name, Barack, or blessed, believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success. They imagined me going to the best schools in the land, even though they weren't rich, because in a generous America you don't have to be rich to achieve your potential.

- Barack Obama

People don't expect government to solve all their problems. But they sense, deep in their bones, that with just a slight change in priorities, we can make sure that every child in America has a decent shot at life, and that the doors of opportunity remain open to all. They know we can do better.

- Barack Obama

Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential.

- Barack Obama

No one is pro-abortion.

- Barack Obama

This budget tells our veterans that if they want increased funding for the VA they'll have to pay for it themselves.

- Barack Obama

Obama Quotes on Education Community colleges play an important role in helping people transition between careers by providing the retooling they need to take on a new career.

- Barack Obama

We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools. We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible.

- Barack Obama

We need to internalize this idea of excellence. Not many folks spend a lot of time trying to be excellent.

- Barack Obama

With the changing economy, no one has lifetime employment. But community colleges provide lifetime employability.

- Barack Obama

Obama Quotes on Politics

A good compromise, a good piece of legislation, is like a good sentence; or a good piece of music. Everybody can recognize it. They say, 'Huh. It works. It makes sense.'

- Barack Obama

In the end, that's what this election is about. Do we participate in a politics of cynicism or a politics of hope?

- Barack Obama

My first job is to say thank you to those who voted me. Those who didn't, I'm going to get your vote next time.

- Barack Obama

My job is not to represent Washington to you, but to represent you to Washington.

There is not a liberal America and a conservative America - there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and latino America and asian America - there's the United States of America.

- Barack Obama

There's not a liberal America and a conservative America - there's the United States of America.

- Barack Obama

We worship an awesome God in the Blue States, and we don't like federal agents poking around our libraries in the Red States. We coach Little League in the Blue States and have gay friends in the Red States.

- Barack Obama

Miscellaneous Obama quotes A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again.

- Barack Obama

That's why I can stand here today. Because somebody stood up when it was hard; stood up when it was risky.

- Barack Obama

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

- Barack Obama

In my heart I know you didn't come here just for me, you came here because you believe in what this country can be. In the face of war, you believe there can be peace. In the face of despair, you believe there can be hope. In the face of a politics that's shut you out, that's told you to settle, that's divided us for too long, you believe we can be one people, reaching for what's possible, building that more perfect union.

- Barack Obama

That is the true genius of America, a faith in the simple dreams of its people, the insistence on small miracles. That we can say what we think, write what we think, without hearing a sudden knock on the door. That we can have an idea and start our own business without paying a bribe or hearing a sudden knock on the door. That we can participate in the political process without fear of retribution, and that our votes will be counted-or at least, most of the time.

- Barack Obama

This is our time, and I'm grateful to be a part of that.

- Barack Obama

If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress.

- Barack Obama

It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get to where we are today, but we have just begun. Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today.

- Barack Obama

Money is not the only answer, but it makes a difference.

- Barack Obama

That's silly talk... Talk to my wife. She'll tell me I need to learn to just put my socks on the hamper.

- Barack Obama

We need to steer clear of this poverty of ambition, where people want to drive fancy cars and wear nice clothes and live in nice apartments but don't want to work hard to accomplish these things. Everyone should try to realize their full potential.

- Barack Obama

You know, my faith is one that admits some doubt.

- Barack Obama

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Anonymous (2008-04-14 08:21:00)

I believe your comment about small town anger and frustration to be absolutely correct. I live in a small town in Northeast Ohio on the Lake Erie that is like a forgotten area. I know many people here who are angry, bitter, and frustrated with the government. I volunteer at the local hospital and to see the people who come in without health insurance in need of care and they are very bitter, angry and my heart aches for them. I have seven members of my extended family who have no health insurance. Presently I am paying Cobra for my daughter-in-law who lost her job because of a medical condition and needs surgery to correct it. (\$470.02) per month for Cobra so she can eventually go back to her job and be self-sufficient. Am I bitter? A little as my husband and I are retired living on small pensions and S.S. But at age 77 and 78 we did not think we would be helping family members who through no fault on their own are in need of medical care. Jobs are scarce in this area and the pay is pitiful. My daughter works at a pre-school for 7.00/hr. Divorced after 25 years of marriage with a son 23 who goes to college. They live with us and we help them financially They have no hospitalization as her ex-husband lost his job and his insurance. Am I bitter? A little. We do what we can for them but that doesn't mean there is not some bitterness and anger and I see it all around our neighborhood. Families on both sides of us have adult children living with them for many different reasons. None of them have health insurance. All of them work but not enough money to pay health insurance. Our town is like the forgotten area.

Anonymous (2008-05-02 12:16:00)

What are your sources for these quotes? some of us need to know they have a good source...

Paul Kekai Manansala (2008-05-02 12:39:00)

You can find all the quotes on Google. Most are from ontheissues.org (www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Barack_Obama.htm) or barackobama.com.

If you need information on specific quotes, I can track them down.

Anonymous (2008-09-10 07:34:00)

I was onboard until the lipstick remark...I guess if I watch this process unfold (which I certainly will) completely, I will see each of their true opinions come forward. Senator Obama apparently has a very low opinion of women. I wear lipstick, am a working mom, and certainly don't consider myself a "PIG"

Anonymous (2008-11-07 23:04:00)

In keeping with the original focus of Obama quotes, I discovered some excerpts from Obama's 11/4 speech have been set to music in a rather interesting way. The arrangement is called "Yes We Can" and is found at <http://www.myspace.com/lcomsongs>

Joel (2009-03-23 08:31:00)

I track and follow Obama's speeches every day. I've found a really cool website that allows you to submit your favorite quotes and have them on a shirt.

I've bought a couple for myself and family members and they are really great. Check it out here: www.obamaspoketome.com
Very cool products.

Thanks for blogging!

Anonymous (2010-09-15 23:22:56)

Wow neat! This is a really great site! I am wondering if anyone else has come across something exactly the same in the past? Keep up the great work!

1.12 December

Is Obama Tough Enough? (2007-12-01 10:30)

The proposition that American voters might not view Barack Obama as tough enough was discussed recently on a few nationwide television news talk shows.

Basically, the idea is that Barack Obama is viewed as a pushover and that he might be seen in the light of say, Jimmy Carter.

However, I don't remember seeing anything in the sense of poll data or opinion surveys that suggest Obama is seen as a weak figure. So it seems that much of this discussion is based on the personal opinions of various pundits.

A tough exterior does not necessarily translate into greater security or stability. George W. Bush cultivated the cowboy image, but that didn't stop al-Qaeda from launching a brazen attack on 9-11.

Even with American troops overextended on two battlefields, terrorist networks have continued to launch major attacks worldwide since the bombing of the World Trade Center.

It was during tough guy Bush's watch, that fundamentalist Iran has become the major power in the Middle East region, Hezbollah is now stronger than ever in Lebanon, and Hamas has come to ascendancy in Palestine.

On other fronts, the world's worse humanitarian crises in Darfur is mostly the result of military confrontation between Sudan and Chad.

Oil prices, long linked with U.S. security, are high at about \$90 a barrel and many think they will eventually go much higher. High oil prices are often cited as one of the "failings" of a "weak" Carter administration.

In Asia, North Korea tested its first nuclear weapon against the warnings of the cowboy administration. Islamic fundamentalism has become a more serious problem in countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Malaysia, once seen as the shining example of a tolerant multi-cultural Muslim-majority state, has been moving at an alarming rate toward hard-line Islamism since the invasion of Iraq.

Russia, once seemingly on a benign path has been moving increasingly toward the right under the Bush administration igniting fears of a new Cold War.

So, tough images and tough action does not translate into security or stability. If America does not like to be pushed around, neither do people in most other parts of the world. And in not a few cases, they are willing to fight when pushed to a certain point even if out-gunned.

Good judgment, diplomacy and sound knowledge of the situation at hand trump cowboy images and tough talk.

Bush, for example, showed his ignorance of the situation in launching his attack on Iraq, when it was revealed that he was unfamiliar with the sectarian strife between Sunni and Shi'ite sects.

Obama, on the other hand, as shown an intricate knowledge in the area of international relations and foreign policy. Likewise, Obama showed good judgment when he failed to accept the administration's case on WMD in Iraq. He spoke before the war began of the chaos that would ensue in the country.

An aggressive foreign policy will not work because it is not concerned with creating a win-win situation for everybody involved. It's only concerned with American interests at the expense of everybody else. Now, when those others decide not to cooperate, it turns into a lose-lose situation as we have today.

One of the strange things I've seen in this campaign, is that many people seem to be judging Obama's "toughness" on his willingness to attack Hillary Clinton on the stump. One has to wonder how this should translate to Obama's foreign policy performance if elected.

The world may not be a friendly place, but those perceived most unfriendly are the bullies. Everyone loves to take down a bully. Obama's approach, it would seem, would be to promote an environment where peace and stable relationships actually have a chance to flourish.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Ambmack (2008-03-01 19:34:00)

I don't agree with your basic logic that Obama is tough enough. He consistently voted "present" instead of yea or nea on too many votes in his State Legislature and no shows in the U.S. Senate. I am an Independent in voting history and have a real fear that Obama is too indecisive or reluctant to make tough decisions when required by the circumstance.

A recent cartoon I saw in a local newspaper showed the White House with "training wheels" on it. Struct me as a pretty strong analogy. Good Luck!

Anonymous (2008-04-24 01:37:00)

I LOVE OBAMA AND HIS MESSAGE.

HE NEEDS TO RESPOND SUBTLY TO HELLARY AND NOT RUIN HIS MESSAGE, BUT HE NEEDS TO FIGHT HER, SHE'S DANGEROUS IMO.....ALL THAT REV. WRIGHT STUFF ON FOX NOISE IS KILLIN HIM. YET I SAW A YOU TUBE ON FOX NOISE 10 AM 2 DAYS AGO.....SHOWING GOV. RENDEL?? OF PA PRAISING FARRAKAN.....ALSO, WHAT IS HELLARY'S REAL FAITH, RELIGION? RESEARCHING IT, YOU FIND ALL KINDS OF INFO, AND REV. HAGGEE.

SPELLING? ENDORSING MCCAIN AND AGAIN TODAY REPEATING HIS REMARKS.

MSNBC IS FOR OBAMA. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCKTnJjiE5U>

Anonymous (2008-04-24 01:41:00)

YOU TUBE VIDEO OF <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCKTnJjiE5U>

GOV. RENDEL AND FARRAKAN, WAS SHOWN ON FOX NOISE 2 DAYS AGO ABOUT 10 AM.

HAGGEE AND MCCAIN, WHY AREN'T THEY SPOKEN ABOUT?? I KNOW THE CAMPAIGN WILL GET DIRTY.....AND OBAMA IS NOT FOR THAT, BUT ITS POLITICS AND HELLARY WILL DO ANYTHING. SEAN HANNITY HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT REV. WRIGHT EVERY NIGHT FOR WEEKS. IS THIS HURTING BARACK?

PLEASE SOMEONE DO IT SUBTLY, AS MC CAIN DID IN NORTH CAROLINA....LOL

HE DENOUNCED THE MESSAGE, THEREBY ENABLING IT TO BE SHOWN EVERY 1/2 HOUR.....WE NEED OBAMA, 8 YEARS OF GOP IS A DISGRACE!

ERIN (2008-04-24 01:48:00)

ENUFF WITH REV. WRIGHT HOW ABOUT HAGGEE, GOV. ED RENDELL/PRAISING FARRAKAN ON YOU TUBE.....????

MC CAIN HAD NO PROBLEM, SUBTLY DENOUNCING THAT NORTH CAROLINA AD, AND NOW ITS POSTED EVERY 1/2 HR ON EVERY CABLE CHANNEL.

SEAN HANNITY FOR WEEKS IS HARPING ON REV. WRIGHT.....WHAT IS HELLARY'S FAITH? RELIGION.....SOMEONE PLEASE RESEARCH IT.....I HAVE BUT NOT CERTAIN WHATS POSTED IS REAL BUT BARACK HAS THE STAFF TO DO IT.

ITS DIRTY POLITICS AND OBAMA HAS TO BE SUBTLE BUT FIGHT BACK....8 YEARS OF THIS DISGRACEFUL PRESIDENT IS ENUFF.....THANKS FOR LISTENING.

Carol Pitner (2008-04-29 16:03:00)

I want Obama to fight Hillary all the way. She is a dangerous individual that we do not need in the White house. I believe in what Obama stands for however I think Obama is now being viewed as weak and they are stating he should come out stronger against Rev Wright more then he did. They are also saying he could not go to a church and not know how radical this Rev wright was. I have to agree with this statment. However I think Obama is what this country needs and I want him to fight and fight hard against Hillary. If he can win the primary then John McCain will not be hard to beat as John McCain does not have the fire in his belly to beat the democrates or stand up to Obama or Hillary...PS I am a republican and have voted as one for many years. This is a time for Change...Please Obama come out more firm and direct in your statements and denoucement of Rev Wright. Do not wait go on Fox news and go on O'Reily.....Please we need you! Carol

Anonymous (2008-05-01 16:30:00)

America, Americans love a fighter—especially in our leaders. Leadership is what this election has come to. People want to feel that you're going to truly fight for them. We want to feel comfortable that when things get tough that leader possesses the internal fortitude and resolve to do what is in the best interest of this country.

Now, almost more than any time in the history of this country we need leadership and a leader that possesses a strong relationship with their inner being, and is able to forcefully and unequivocally communicate GOOD.

Too often we misinterpret ego driven ideology for toughness. Senator Clinton was backed into a corner and she came out fighting. It was her resolve that I admired, not the way she's conducted herself in battle.

The Rev. Wright controversy has backed Senator Obama into that same proverbial corner, and now America is watching with baited breath to experience his resolve and witness his conduct in battle.

The battle that he must fight must come from his heart. He must forcefully and decisively communicate his GOOD. He must move ego and ideology out the way in order that GOOD might flow. GOOD, like TRUTH, is unmistakable.

GOOD, delivered from the heart will always find the appropriate tone, and body language in order that it might be heard. Let's continue to fight on to a victory in November.

The Independent (2008-05-07 13:48:00)

Obama's Race Against Race

The Independent

A black man runs from a howling crowd. If he's caught he'll be torn apart. If he reaches sanctuary he'll be loved. This ritual is the Sacred Lynching. It's a scene from Olaf Stapledon's science fiction book, *The First and Last Men*. Set in the future, humanity has mixed and few people are "white" or "black," and the ritual is a nostalgic celebration of racism in a post-racial world. It resembles our own supposed post-racial politics, and I see Senator Barack Obama as that last black man on earth trying to outrun our media mob.

And the mob tries. At ABC's Democratic primary debate in Philadelphia, hosts Charles Gibson and George Stephanopoulos tied trivia around Obama's feet. What about your angry black pastor? Are you patriotic? Are you a friend of a Weathermen terrorist? Obama questioned their questions until they looked absurd. The audience caught his cue and afterwards, when the cameras blinked off, they heckled the hosts.

The media chase Obama because, if he wins the presidential race, he'll break the last American color line, which is also the line between our repressed history and our collective consciousness. A nation, just like an individual, will repress images and ideas that conflict with its self-image. The violence that created who we are — enslavement of Africans, indigenous peoples marched off their land, workers hanged for unionizing — contradicts our self-image as the greatest nation on earth, so our media-represses it.

To read more:

[http://www.independent.org/2008/04/25/obama %e2 %80 %99s-race-against-race/](http://www.independent.org/2008/04/25/obama%20%99s-race-against-race/)

Anonymous (2008-05-31 22:53:00)

Judging by his first campaign in Illinois, Obama might be considered tough enough by Chicago (or Washington ...) standards ... but not in the spirit of "A change we believe in." The candidate of hope is just another politician after all ... with little experience to boot! And this is the best candidate that we can find to represent our party in November?!

ronik (2008-06-02 12:43:00)

The only future problem I see for Obama, are the Hillary supporters that would rather vote for McCain than see him in the White House. They feel Obama and his church have created racial divides that have split the democratic party.

Then, there's the question regarding a "whitey" video that is purported to have been made by Michelle Obama. It is said to have Michelle spewing racial narrative from the pulpit of the Trinity Church. Apparently, it is rumored to be in the possession of the republican party who is waiting until closer to the election to debut it.

Add that to a murder investigation currently underway in Chicago where Donald Young, the choir leader at Trinity was killed after claiming some rather nasty things about Obama. Not to mention the two murders that followed.

Don't be so quick to get Hillary out of the race people! We may need her in it until the end if we are to retake the White House.

Anonymous (2008-07-20 17:42:00)

I think Sen. Obama may be tough enough but he needs some better guidance. For example, when the neo-cons made a big deal about his not wearing a flag lapel pin, instead of caving and wearing one every now and then, he should have worn the

biggest, glitziest pin he could (2"x2") and then accuse McCain et al. of not being as patriotic as he. He should stop letting them dictate his actions.

Sandy Dumont (2008-08-12 16:28:00)

Obama is tough enough, but he needs an image consultant. I'm standing by to help! What he wore Monday in Hawaii was not good. Recently I was quoted as saying he looked good in black, but what I actually said was that he looked good in his black suit with a white shirt and red power tie.

Anybody know how to get a message to him? I'm a seasoned image consultant working with Fortune 500 companies. Check my website: www.theimagearchitect.com

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Anonymous (2008-10-31 19:34:00)

I am not sure if I will vote for Obama or not. Does he have any experience with international politics?

Anonymous (2009-04-01 14:32:00)

Apr. 1, 2009...I am an Obama supporter and yet, I'm unsure about his 'toughness' too. I like the fact that he's willing to talk and make new assessments on old situations and old conflicts, but I really hope he has the balls to do what might need to get done (including standing firm against US geopolitical opponents). Obama reminds me of the kid in school who wanted everyone to be his friend...the world isn't that friendly, Barack. Unfortunately, we can't all be friends.

Paul Merai (2012-09-03 14:53:55)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen &NR=1 &v=k8TwRmX6zs4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=k8TwRmX6zs4)

this one alone should get you one billion votes.

Time Magazine features Obama (2007-12-01 16:15)

Senator Barack Obama made the cover story of latest edition of Time Magazine:



Click here for the full story.

Endorsements Obama also picked up some endorsements at the end of the week. The Illinois chapter of the AFSCME labor union broke with the national endorsement to support their hometown boy. The Alabama New South Coalition, a mostly black organization, also voted to endorse Obama on Saturday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Change Rocks Concert/Rally (2007-12-02 10:01)



If you're in the Chicago area, you're not going to want to miss this. Get your tickets now.

Friday, December 7th

Doors Open at 7PM

Riveria Theater
4746 Racine Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640

— Here's a video of Obama supporters at the Brown/Black Presidential Forum in Iowa:
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama Speech List (2007-12-02 15:29)

- Obama Speeches on Energy and the Environment
- Obama Speeches on Foreign Policy including Iraq War
- Obama Speeches to Labor Organizations
- Obama Quotes on Education
- Obama Quotes on Healthcare
- Miscellaneous Obama speeches

Obama Speeches on Energy

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Real Leadership for a Clean Energy Future October 8, 2007
Two weeks ago, representatives from some of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases were invited to Washington by the President for a global conference on climate change.
- Energy Independence and the Safety of Our Planet April 3, 2006
The issue of climate change is one that we ignore at our own peril. There may still be disputes about exactly how much we're contributing to the warming of the earth's atmosphere and how much is naturally occurring, but what we can be scientifically certain of is that our continued use of fossil fuels is pushing us to a point of no return. And unless we free ourselves from a dependence on these fossil fuels and chart a new course on energy in this country, we are condemning future generations to global catastrophe.

- Energy Security is National Security February 28, 2006

In this year's State of the Union address, President Bush told us that it was time to get serious about America's addiction to foreign oil. The next day, we found out that his idea didn't sit too well with the Saudi Royal Family. A few hours later, Energy Secretary Bodman backtracked and assured the world that even though the President said he planned to reduce the amount of oil we import from the Middle East, he actually didn't mean that literally.

- Securing Our Energy Future September 15, 2005

The days of running a 21st century economy on a 20th century fossil fuel are numbered - and we need to realize that before it's too late. Our persistent dependence on oil is a danger our government has known about for years. And despite constant warnings by researchers and scientists, major corporations and our own government officials, it's a danger they have failed to prepare for, listen to, or seriously try to guard against.

Obama Speeches on Foreign Policy

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Lessons from Iraq October 12, 2007

Now, some have asked me, "Why are you always reminding us that you opposed the war? Isn't that yesterday's news? Is that experience really relevant?" And what I always say is this - this isn't just about the past, it's about the future. I don't talk about my opposition to the war to say "I told you so." I wish the war had gone differently. But the reason I talk about it is because I truly believe that the judgment, and the conviction, and the accountability that each of us showed on the most important foreign policy decision of our lives is the best indicator you have of how each of us will make those decisions going forward.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Turning the Page in Iraq September 12, 2007

In a major national security address at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, U.S. Senator Barack Obama will today outline his plan to end the war and his vision for what America can achieve once it turns the page in Iraq.

- Remarks of Senator Obama: The War We Need to Win August 1, 2007

In a major national security address at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, U.S. Senator Barack Obama today said that the war in Iraq and our failed leadership in Washington have made us less safe than we were before 9/11. Obama said that the U.S. has been fighting on the wrong battlefield, and outlined his comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism worldwide.

- Remarks of Senator Obama: A Sacred Trust August 21, 2007

In an address to the 108th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, U.S. Senator Barack Obama today articulated his plan to keep America's sacred trust with our active duty servicemen and women and our veterans, rebuild our overstretched military, and develop the capabilities we need to face the challenges of the 21st century.

- A Way Forward in Iraq November 20, 2006

Throughout American history, there have been moments that call on us to meet the challenges of an uncertain world, and pay whatever price is required to secure our freedom. They are the soul-trying times our forbearers spoke of, when the ease of complacency and self-interest must give way to the more difficult task of rendering judgment on what is best for the nation and for posterity, and then acting on that judgment - making the hard choices and sacrifices necessary to uphold our most deeply held values and ideals.

- Moving Forward in Iraq November 22, 2005

Today, nearly 160,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are risking their lives in the Middle East. They are operating in some of the most dangerous and difficult circumstances imaginable. Well over 2,000 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice - given their full measure of devotion. Thousands more have returned with wounds like those that I saw at Walter Reed.

- Non-Proliferation and Russia: The Challenges Ahead November 1, 2005

Good morning. As some of you know, Senator Lugar and I recently traveled to Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan to witness firsthand both the progress we're making in securing the world's most dangerous weapons, as well as the serious challenges that lie ahead.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama About America's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Policy May 26, 2005

Mr. President, throughout the last half of the 20th Century, one nation - more than any other on the face of the earth - defined and shaped the threats posed to the United States.

- Statement of Senator Barack Obama on the Nuclear Option April 13, 2005

Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to think about the implications the nuclear option would have on this chamber and this country. I urge you to think not just about winning every debate, but about protecting free and democratic debate.

- Remarks of Illinois State Sen. Barack Obama Against Going to War with Iraq October 2, 2002

Good afternoon. Let me begin by saying that although this has been billed as an anti-war rally, I stand before you as someone who is not opposed to war in all circumstances. The Civil War was one of the bloodiest in history, and yet it was only through the crucible of the sword, the sacrifice of multitudes, that we could begin to perfect this union, and drive the scourge of slavery from our soil. I don't oppose all wars.

Obama Speeches to Labor Unions

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: United Auto Workers Conference November 13, 2007

We meet at a difficult time for organized labor. A while back, I went to a Maytag plant in Galesburg, Illinois that was moving to Mexico. And I met workers who were having to compete with their own children for jobs that pay seven bucks an hour.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at Labor Day Rally September 3, 2007

The conventional thinking in Washington tells us that we're a country divided into Red States and Blue States; that we're doomed to fight the same tired partisan battles over and over again. They tell us we can't come together to take on big challenges like health care, or energy, or education; that we can't agree on what America should be, so we might as well settle for the way America is right now. But these crowds tell me something else. They tell me that when it comes to what's wrong with this country, the American people are not the problem. The American people are the answer.

- AFSCME National Convention August 7, 2006

In coffee shops and town meetings, in VFW halls and right here in this room, the questions are all the same. Will I be able to leave my children a better world than I was given? Will I be able to save enough to send them to college or plan for a secure retirement? Will my job even be there tomorrow? Who will stand up for me in this new world? In this time of change and uncertainty, these questions are expected - but I want you to know today they are by no means unique. Throughout our history, they have been asked and then answered by Americans who have stood in your shoes and shared your concerns.

- Take Back America Conference Remarks June 14, 2006

It's a time where you can go to any town hall or street corner or coffee shop and hear people express the same anxiety about the future; hear them convey the same uncertainty about the direction we're headed as a country. Whether it's the war or Katrina or their health care or their jobs, you hear people say that we've finally arrived at a moment where something must change.

- AFL-CIO National Convention July 25, 2005

It would be naive of me to start without acknowledging what's been on everyone's mind during this convention. As America tries to find its way in a global economy, we meet here at a challenging time for the labor movement. There are questions of strategy and tactics, leadership and power. And I can imagine that many of you are anxious not only about labor's future, but yours. You're wondering, will I be able to leave my children a better world than I was given? Will I be able to save enough to send them to college or plan for a secure retirement? Will my job even be there tomorrow? Who will stand up for me in this new world?

Obama Speeches on Education

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Our Kids, Our Future November 20, 2007

I've visited many schools and spoken to many teachers and students throughout my two decades of public service, but one I'll always remember is my visit to Dodge Elementary School in Chicago just a few years ago.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the National Education Association Annual Meeting July 5, 2007

Over the last few years, I've been traveling to different schools and meeting with all kinds of educators to hear about what's working, what's not, what makes the difference when it comes to educating children today.

- Teaching Our Kids in a 21st Century Economy October 25, 2005

The other day, I was reading through Jonathan Kozol's new book, *Shame of a Nation*. In it, he talks about his recent travels to schools across America, and how fifty years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, we have an education system in this country that is still visibly separate and painfully unequal.

Obama Speeches on Healthcare

- Cutting Costs and Covering America: A 21st Century Health Care System May 29, 2007

A few hours north of here, Amy and Lane run a small business that offers internet service to their community. They were the very first company to provide broadband access in their remote corner of northeastern Iowa, and every day, hundreds of people count on the services they provide to do their jobs and live their lives.

- Statement of U.S. Senator Barack Obama on the Avian Flu October 18, 2005

We are continuing to witness the relentless spread of avian flu, carried slowly but predictably by wild, migratory birds from countries in Southeast Asia to Western China, to Mongolia, and then over the Ural Mountains into Russia and Ukraine. From there, avian flu has spread over the past week to Romania and Turkey, and we have just learned, possibly into Greece.

- Remarks of U.S. Senator Barack Obama on the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill and the Avian Flu July 19, 2005

Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 2057, the Foreign Operations Appropriation Bill. I'd also like to highlight one aspect of the bill. Since coming to the Senate six months ago, one of the foreign policy and health issues I have focused on relates to the avian flu. I am pleased that this bill includes \$10 million to combat the spread of this potential pandemic, adding to the \$25 million that the Senate provided in the supplemental appropriations bill in April.

- CURE Keynote Address March 11, 2005

Since I first learned about this organization from David and Susan, I've often thought about the simple act of hope that began its journey. I've thought about three mothers, sitting around a kitchen table, sharing the pain and the helplessness that go along with watching the child you love, the child whose happiness you live for, struggle with a disease that mom and dad can't fix. A disease that doesn't necessarily go away with the doctor's medicine, that isn't talked about most nights on the news, that isn't funded and recognized like a lot of the other diseases.

Miscellaneous Obama Speeches

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Democratic National Committee Fall Meeting November 30, 2007

Less than a year from now, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Iowa Jefferson-Jackson Dinner November 10, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi, Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Reclaiming the American Dream November 7, 2007

It's wonderful to be here today. I feel right at home in Bettendorf, which is just a stone's throw from my home state of Illinois. But the truth is, we share more than the banks of a great river. If you spend time in Washington, you hear a lot about the divisions in our country. About how we're becoming more separated by geography and ideology; race and religion; wealth and opportunity. And we've had plenty of politicians who try to take advantage of these divisions - pitting Americans against one another, or targeting different messages to different audiences.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: A Change We Can Believe In November 3, 2007

One year from now, you will have the chance to walk into a voting booth, pull back the curtain, and choose the next President of the United States. Here's the good news - for the first time in a long time, the name George Bush will not appear on the ballot. The name Dick Cheney will not appear on the ballot. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and the Karl Rove politics of fear and cynicism will be over. But the question you will have to ask yourselves when you pick up your ballot a year from today is, "What next?" How do we repair the enormous damage of these dismal years and recapture that sense of common purpose that has seen America through our toughest times?

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: A Challenge for Our Times November 2, 2007

It's a special honor to be here in Clarendon County. Because Clarendon County is the place that showed me and showed America that when ordinary people come together, they can do extraordinary things.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: A New Beginning October 2, 2007

Thank you, Ted. Ted Sorensen has been counselor to a President in some of our toughest moments, and he has helped define our national purpose at pivotal turning points.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Howard University Convocation September 28, 2007

It's a privilege to be a part of today's convocation and an honor to receive this degree from Howard. There are few other universities that have played so central a role in breaking down yesterday's barriers and inching this country closer to the ideals we see inscribed on the monuments throughout this city.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Tax Fairness for the Middle Class September 18, 2007

Yesterday I spoke about the future of the American economy at the NASDAQ. And in many ways, NASDAQ is a symbol of the new economy that's taking hold - the wealth created; the booms and bubbles; the technology that's helping to drive growth, and the interconnectedness that now spans the globe.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Our Common Stake in America's Prosperity September 17, 2007

Seventy-five years ago this week, Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt took his campaign for the presidency to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco.

- Remarks of Senator Obama: A Sacred Trust August 21, 2007

In an address to the 108th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, U.S. Senator Barack Obama today articulated his plan to keep America's sacred trust with our active duty servicemen and women and our veterans, rebuild our overstretched military, and develop the capabilities we need to face the challenges of the 21st century.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the National Council of La Raza July 22, 2007

I have been running for President now for a little over five months. And in that time, I have been inspired by crowds tens of thousands of people strong - many who have come out for the very first political event of their lifetime. We have seen more Americans sign up and contribute so far than any other campaign in history. They are young and old, Republican and Democrat, white, and Black, and Latino.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Changing the Odds for Urban America July 18, 2007

It's been four decades since Bobby Kennedy crouched in a shack along the Mississippi Delta and looked into the wide, listless eyes of a hungry child. Again and again he tried to talk to this child, but each time his efforts were met with only a blank stare of desperation. And when Kennedy turned to the reporters traveling with him, with tears in his eyes he asked a single question about poverty in America.

- A Politics of Conscience June 23, 2007

It's great to be here. I've been speaking to a lot of churches recently, so it's nice to be speaking to one that's so familiar. I understand you switched venues at considerable expense and inconvenience because of unfair labor practices at the place you were going to be having this synod. Clearly, the past 50 years have not weakened your resolve as faithful witnesses of the gospel. And I'm glad to see that.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Taking Our Government Back June 22, 2007

We cannot settle for a second Gilded Age in America. And yet we find ourselves once more in the midst of a new economy where more wealth is in danger of falling into fewer hands; where the average CEO now earns more in one day than an average worker earns in an entire year; where Americans are struggling like never before to pay their medical bills, or their kids' tuition, or high gas prices, all while the profits of the drug and insurance and oil industries have never been higher.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Take Back America 2007 June 19, 2007
It has now been a little over four months since we began this campaign. And everywhere we've been - whether it's Oakland or Cleveland, Atlanta or Austin - we've been getting these inspiring, humbling crowds of thousands. For a lot of people, it's the first political event of their lifetime.
- Strengthening Families in a New Economy June 15, 2007
Each year at this time we honor and think about the fathers who've been a part of our lives - the examples they've set, the sacrifices they've made, their successes and their struggles.
- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the Hampton University Annual Ministers' Conference June 5, 2007
A few weeks ago, I attended a service at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the LA Riots. After a jury acquitted 4 police officers of beating Rodney King - a beating that was filmed and flashed around the world - Los Angeles erupted. I remember the sense of despair and powerlessness in watching one of America's greatest cities engulfed in flames.
- Remarks at Southern New Hampshire University Commencement May 19, 2007
Good morning, President LeBlanc, the Board of Trustees, faculty, parents, family, friends, and the Class of 2007. Congratulations on your graduation, and thank you for allowing me the honor to be a part of it.
- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the Detroit Economic Club May 7, 2007
America is a country that hasn't come easily. In our brief history, we have been tested by revolution and slavery, war and depression, and great movements for social, civil, and equal rights.
- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama to the National Conference of Black Mayors May 5, 2007
It is an honor to be here at Southern University. It is a privilege to stand with so many of our leading mayors from across this country. Whether it's a small town or a big city, the government that's closest to the people is the one the people count on the most.
- Remarks of Senator Obama to the California State Democratic Convention May 2, 2007
It has now been a little over two months since we began this campaign. In that time we have traveled all across this country. And before every event we do, I usually have a minute to sit quietly and collect my thoughts. And recently, I've found myself reflecting on what it was that led me to public service in the first place.
- The American Moment: Remarks to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs April 23, 2007
We all know that these are not the best of times for America's reputation in the world. We know what the war in Iraq has cost us in lives and treasure, in influence and respect. We have seen the consequences of a foreign policy based on a flawed ideology, and a belief that tough talk can replace real strength and vision.
- Selma Voting Rights March Commemoration March 4, 2007
Here today, I must begin because at the Unity breakfast this morning I was saving for last and the list was so long I left him out after that introduction. So I'm going to start by saying how much I appreciate the friendship and the support and the outstanding work that he does each and every day, not just in Capitol Hill but also back here in the district. Please give a warm round of applause for your Congressman Artur Davis.
- Full Text of Senator Barack Obama's Announcement for President February 10, 2007
We all made this journey for a reason. It's humbling, but in my heart I know you didn't come here just for me, you came here because you believe in what this country can be. In the face of war, you believe there can be peace. In the face of despair, you believe there can be hope. In the face of a politics that's shut you out, that's told you to settle, that's divided us for too long, you believe we can be one people, reaching for what's possible, building that more perfect union.

- World AIDS Day Speech: Race Against Time December 1, 2006

You know, AIDS is a story often told by numbers. 40 million infected with HIV. Nearly 4.5 million this year alone. 12 million orphans in Africa. 8,000 deaths and 6,000 new infections every single day. In some places, 90 % of those with HIV do not know they have it. And we just learned that AIDS is set to become the 3rd leading cause of death worldwide in the coming years. They are staggering, these numbers, and they help us understand the magnitude of this pandemic. But when repeated by themselves, statistics can also numb - they can hide the individual stories and tragedies and hopes of the Leos who live the daily drama of this disease.

- An Honest Government, A Hopeful Future August 28, 2006

The first time I came to Kenya was in 1987. I had just finished three years of work as a community organizer in low-income neighborhoods of Chicago, and was about to enroll in law school. My sister, Auma, was teaching that year at this university, and so I came to stay with her for a month. My experience then was very different than it has been on this trip. Instead of a motorcade, we traveled in my sister's old VW Beetle, which even then was already ten years old. When it broke down in front of Uhuru Park, we had to push until some joakalis came to fix it by the side of the road. I slept on the couch of my sister's apartment, not a fancy hotel, and often took my meals at a small tea-house in downtown Nairobi. When we went upcountry, we traveled by train and matatu, with chickens and collard greens and sometimes babies placed in my lap.

- Xavier University Commencement Address August 11, 2006

I have to say that I'm pretty humbled to be here. Each year there are hundreds of commencements in this country. All are hopeful, some are inspiring, and most of you probably won't even remember who your speaker was ten years from now. As a rule, they usually involve an old guy like me giving young folks like you advice about what to expect in the real world - advice about the challenges you'll face and the obstacles you'll have to overcome.

- Campus Progress Annual Conference July 12, 2006

When I told people that after college, I planned on being a community organizer and working in low-income neighborhoods, they thought I was crazy. My mother and grandparents thought I should go to law school. My friends had applied for jobs on Wall Street. But I went ahead and wrote letters to every organization in the country that I could think of. And finally, this small group of churches on the south side of Chicago wrote back and gave me a job organizing neighborhoods devastated by steel-plant closings in the early 80s.

- Call to Renewal Keynote Address June 28, 2006

But today I'd like to talk about the connection between religion and politics and perhaps offer some thoughts about how we can sort through some of the often bitter arguments that we've been seeing over the last several years. I do so because, as you all know, we can affirm the importance of poverty in the Bible; and we can raise up and pass out this Covenant for a New America. We can talk to the press, and we can discuss the religious call to address poverty and environmental stewardship all we want, but it won't have an impact unless we tackle head-on the mutual suspicion that sometimes exists between religious America and secular America.

- Northwestern University Commencement Address June 16, 2006

...As you go on in life, cultivating this quality of empathy will become harder, not easier. There's no community service requirement in the real world; no one forcing you to care. You'll be free to live in neighborhoods with people who are exactly like yourself, and send your kids to the same schools, and narrow your concerns to what's going in your own little circle. Not only that - we live in a culture that discourages empathy. A culture that too often tells us our principle goal in life is to be rich, thin, young, famous, safe, and entertained. A culture where those in power too often encourage these selfish impulses.

- University of Massachusetts at Boston Commencement Address June 2, 2006

And let me tell you - the easiest thing in the world is to do nothing at all. To turn off the TV, put down the paper, and walk away from the stories about Iraq or Darfur or poverty or violence or joblessness or hopelessness. To go about your busy lives, wishing these problems away but expecting someone else to do it. To remain detached; to remain indifferent; to remain safe. But I hope you don't do what's easy. I hope you do what's hard.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at Emily's List Annual Luncheon May 11, 2006

We meet here today at a time where we find ourselves at a crossroads in America's history. It's a time where you can go to any town hall or street corner or coffee shop and hear people express the same anxiety about the future; hear them convey the same uncertainty about the direction we're headed as a country. Whether it's the war or Katrina or their health care or their jobs, you hear people say that we've finally arrived at a moment where something must change.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the Lobbying Reform Summit January 26, 2006

Now, I've been asked by my caucus to take a role in lobbying reform - a role I'm proud to have. As many of you know I'm from Chicago - a city that hasn't always had the cleanest reputation when it comes to politics in this country. But during my first year in the Illinois State Senate, I helped lead the fight to pass Illinois' first ethics reform bill in twenty-five years. I hope we can do something like that here.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award Ceremony November 16, 2005

I come to this with tremendous humility. I was only seven when Bobby Kennedy died. Many of the people in this room knew him as brother, as husband, as father, as friend. I knew him only as an icon. In that sense, it is a distance I share with most of the people who now work in this Capitol - many of whom were not even born when Bobby Kennedy died. But what's interesting is that if you go throughout the offices in the Capitol, everywhere you'll find photographs of Kennedy, or collections of his speeches, or some other memento of his life.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the National Womens Law Center November 10, 2005

As I was thinking about tonight's dinner and all the progress the women's movement has made in the last century, the first thing that came to mind wasn't all the legal cases won or the legislation passed; it wasn't the issues debated or even the individual rights secured. I thought about my daughters.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama on the Confirmation of Judge John Roberts September 22, 2005

First of all, let me congratulate Senator Specter and Senator Leahy for moving the process of confirming the nomination of Judge Roberts along with such civility, a civility that I believe speaks well of the Senate. Let me also say that I remain distressed that the White House during this confirmation process, which overall went smoothly, failed to provide critical documents as part of the record that could have provided us with a better basis to make our judgment with respect to the nomination. This White House continues to stymie efforts on the part of the Senate to do its job.

- American Legion Conference July 15, 2005

Over the last few months and throughout the campaign, I've been able to travel the state and meet veterans from all across Illinois. And no matter how many stories of heroism I hear, I constantly find myself in awe of your service and inspired by your sacrifice. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that "To fight out a war, you must believe something and want something with all your might."

- U.S. Senator Barack Obama addresses the American Library Association June 27, 2005

Thank you. It's an honor to be here with the hundreds of dedicated librarians who make up the American Library Association. Before we begin, I'd like to say a special hello to ALA member Nancy Gibbs, who is the mother of my communications director, Robert Gibbs. Believe me, I have no idea how the biggest mouth in our office came from a family of two librarians, but we're proud to have him on board and I'm sure you are too.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the Pritzker School of Medicine Commencement June 13, 2005

Congratulations! After four long years of endless studying, sleepless nights, and constant stress, who's ready to kick back, relax, and jump head first into their residency?

- Remarks of U.S. Senator Barack Obama on the nomination of Justice Janice Rogers Brown June 8, 2005

I rise today to speak on the nomination of California Justice Janice Rogers Brown to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Now, let me begin by saying that the last thing I would like to be spending my time on right now is talking about judges.

- Remarks of U.S. Senator Barack Obama at the Knox College Commencement June 4, 2005

Good morning President Taylor, the Board of Trustees, faculty, parents, family, friends, and the Class of 2005. Congratulations on your graduation, and thank you for allowing me the honor to be a part of it.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery May 30, 2005

This is my first time visiting the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, and as I was driving through I thought to myself that the staff and the volunteers who have made this possible should feel very proud of the work they're doing - this is a beautiful place for our veterans to come home to.

- Remarks by Senator Barack Obama at the Rockford Register Star Young American Awards May 7, 2005

Thank you, and congratulations to all of this year's Young Americans. Now that you've each received your award, I have one question for all of you: What are you going to do with it?

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner May 2, 2005

Thank you. Half a century after the first few hundred people sat for justice and equality at these tables, I am honored to be here with this crowd of thousands at the 50th NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner.

- "A Hope To Fulfill" April 26, 2005

Thank you. It's great to be here at the National Press Club - I want to thank the club as well as the FDR Institute for arranging this luncheon together. I'd also like to thank Anne Roosevelt and Jim Roosevelt, who inspire us all by carrying on the proud legacy of their grandfather.

- SIUC College of Agriculture's 50th Anniversary April 23, 2005

Thank you. It's always great to be here in Carbondale, and a real honor to speak here at SIUC's first Agriculture Industry Day. Now, I'll be honest - I haven't done all that much farming living on the South Side of Chicago. But I have to say, my fondest farming memory is when I once offered to help out a friend with his harvest. Knowing the full range of my agricultural experience and expertise, he took one look at me and said..."no thanks."

- Remarks by Senator Barack Obama at the Opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum April 20, 2005

Let me congratulate all of those who have helped to make this wonderful vision a reality. But we gather here today not to celebrate a building. We gather to celebrate a man.

- Statement of Senator Barack Obama About His Amendment to Provide Meals and Phone Service to Wounded Veterans April 14, 2005

Statement of Senator Barack Obama Amendment to Provide Meals and Phone Service to Wounded Veterans Wednesday, April 14, 2005 M. President, today I am offering an amendment to the fiscal year 2005 Emergency Supplemental, which I am pleased to announce...

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at the Herblock Foundation Annual Lecture April 6, 2005

Thank you for inviting me here tonight. It's been a pretty busy week, but I figured I'd better do my best to show up here since I can't think of an easier target for political cartoonists than a tall, skinny guy with big ears and a funny name.

- Remarks of Senator Barack Obama at TechNet March 8, 2005

We're here today because when it comes to the global economy, the rules of the game have changed. This is a fact not only understood by a roomful of Silicon Valley CEOs, but by families I met all across Illinois during the campaign. They know that when it comes to their jobs and their wages, they're not only competing with workers in Naperville and Carbondale, but in New Delhi and Calcutta.

- Obama Remarks to the American Legion Legislative Rally March 1, 2005

Remarks by Senator Barack Obama American Legion Legislative Rally Tuesday, March 1st, 2005

- John Lewis's 65th Birthday Gala February 21, 2005

Thank you. It's an honor to be here tonight to celebrate one of the most courageous and compassionate Americans of our time. Happy Birthday John. When I was first asked to speak here, I thought to myself, never in a million years would I have guessed that I'd be serving in Congress with John Lewis.

- Keynote Address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention July 27, 2004

"...Yet even as we speak, there are those who are preparing to divide us, the spin masters and negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of anything goes. Well, I say to them tonight, there's not a liberal America and a conservative America - there's the United States of America...."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Des Moines Mayor Endorses Obama (2007-12-02 15:39)



Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie endorsed Senator Barack Obama today.

Cownie said at a press conference announcing the endorsement.

"The real promise of Senator Obama's presidency isn't just the plans he'll bring with him into the White House, it's the visionary leadership he'll demonstrate once he gets there. Barack Obama will put an end to the bitter partisanship that's stopped us from making progress on the urgent challenge of global warming. He'll tell the American people what they need to hear, not just what they want to hear. As President, he'll restore America's standing in the world and lead a global effort to meet this challenge once and for all."

Obama Rapid Response Website (2007-12-03 09:07)

With Barack Obama looking strong in Iowa and New Hampshire, the Hillary Clinton campaign has launched a series of attacks against the Illinois senator as early state voting draws near.

Many voters are starting to look at the candidates more closely and are analyzing how their presidencies might impact themselves, their families and communities. So, Hillary's name recognition and natural appeal to women may be starting to erode as people study her history and issues.

Both campaigns have to be careful in not going too far especially with irrelevant attacks not based on the candidate's public careers. Surveys indicate that voters are not looking for that kind of leadership.

Here is a message from campaign manager David Plouffe announcing a new rapid response center in response to the attacks:

Saturday night, the Des Moines Register came out with a poll that shows Barack Obama has pulled ahead of the Democratic frontrunner and is now leading in Iowa.

The poll also showed that by a wide margin, Iowans believe that Senator Clinton is running the most negative campaign in this race.

Yesterday we found out why.

Less than twelve hours after that poll came out, the Clinton campaign launched a series of baseless attacks against Senator Obama. Panicked by the poll numbers, they even attacked Barack for telling his kindergarten teacher what he wanted to be when he grew up.

I wish I were joking.

The American people find these kinds of attacks tiring and unproductive, but today Senator Clinton promised that this was just the beginning, saying that attacking other Democrats is "the fun part" of campaigning for the presidency.

We disagree. Barack Obama believes that this presidential campaign isn't about attacking people for fun, it's about solving people's problems, like ending this war and creating a universal health care system. Washington insiders might think throwing mud is fun, but the American people are looking for a President who can unite this country around a common purpose, and that's the kind of leadership Barack will continue to offer in this campaign.

But we need your help.

Today we're launching a website that will keep track of all the attacks Senator Clinton has launched since she said she wasn't interested in attacking other Democrats at the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner on November 10th. We're asking all of you to be vigilant and notify us immediately of any attacks from Senator Clinton or her supporters as soon as you see them so that we can respond with the truth swiftly and forcefully.

These attacks could be phone calls, literature drops, blog posts, mail pieces as well as radio and TV ads. Some could even be anonymous or designed to be. Please email us at hillaryattacks@barackobama.com the moment you see something that concerns you.

Senator Clinton has said her idea of fun is to attack Barack each day from here on out, and that's why we need you to help us stop those attacks and make sure that Barack can continue to talk with voters and caucus-goers about the struggles they face and their hope for America.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Monday (2007-12-03 13:33)

The Obama campaign has decided to capitalize on the reaction of supporters to today's attacks on Sen. Obama by the Hillary Clinton campaign:



Robert Reich , Bill Clinton's Secretary of Labor, also had some comments to make on the Clinton assault:

I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the stridency and inaccuracy of charges in Iowa – especially coming from my old friend. While I'm as hard-boiled as they come about what's said in campaigns, I just don't think Dems should stoop to this. First, HRC attacked O's plan for keep Social Security solvent. Social Security doesn't need a whole lot to keep it going – it's in far better shape than Medicare – but everyone who's looked at it agrees it will need bolstering (I was a trustee of the Social Security Trust Fund ten years ago, and I can vouch for this). Obama wants to do it by lifting the cap on the percent of income subject to Social Security payroll taxes, which strikes me as sensible. That cap is now close to \$98,000 (it's indexed), and the result is highly regressive. (Bill Gates satisfies his yearly Social Security obligations a few minutes past midnight on January 1 every year.) The cap doesn't have to be lifted all that much to keep Social Security solvent – maybe to \$115,00. That's a progressive solution to the problem. HRC wants to refer Social Security to a commission. That's avoiding the issue, and it's irresponsible: A commission will likely call either for raising the retirement age (that's what Greenspan's Social Security commission came up with in the 1980s) or increasing the payroll tax on all Americans. So when HRC charges that Obama's plan would "raise taxes" and her plan wouldn't, she's simply not telling the truth.

I'm equally concerned about her attack on his health care plan. She says his would insure fewer people than hers. I've compared the two plans in detail. Both of them are big advances over what we have now. But in my view Obama's would insure more people, not fewer, than HRC's.

Obama received an endorsement today from John Adams, Brigadier General, US Army (retired), former Deputy United States Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Barack Obama's ability to listen and inspire will allow him to shape a new domestic strategy of working together as Americans to safeguard our constitutional liberties and secure the blessings of prosperity for all our citizens. His sound judgment and ability to make tough choices under pressure will help him to

shape a new international strategy of cooperating with our friends abroad to enhance global peace and security. We need his vision and integrity to address America's domestic and international challenges," Adams said in a statement released by the campaign.

Other high-ranking military retirees who have endorsed Obama are Richard Danzig, 71st Secretary of the Navy; Major General Scott Graton, U.S. Air Force (Ret) and General Merrill "Tony" McPeak; Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force (1990-1994).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack O'Bollywood (2007-12-03 18:53)

Unwilling to cede the Indo-American vote to Hillary, some apparent Obama supporters have created a video featuring the candidate singing in Hindi in a classic Bollywood song and dance routine.

Barack O'Bollywood [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Tuesday (2007-12-04 12:53)

The NPR presidential debate is going on live right now. You can listen at npr.org.

Civil rights leader on Barack Obama

Here's a video from Reverend Joseph Lowery, a cofounder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and The Coalition for the People's Agenda, and a close friend of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr speaking at the Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines. He's telling the crowd about his support for Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



130 South Carolina Ministers endorse Barack Obama (2007-12-04 13:04)

Senator Barack Obama picked up the endorsement of 130 black ministers today in the early state of South Carolina. "We believe Barack Obama will not use his religion as a crutch or a hammer, but will draw on the moral imperatives of our faith and apply them to the political, social and economic problems of our country," said Rev. Joseph Lowery, founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Barack was characterized as a person who will combine political with spiritual leadership. "Here we have a man who brings together the political and the spiritual in a very active way," said Rev. C. T. Vivian, a close adviser of Martin Luther King Jr.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama Video List (2007-12-04 16:00)

Here are my choices for the top ten Barack Obama videos.

[EMBED]

Meet Barack Obama

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGGIHqloP2k>

[EMBED]

Meet Michelle Obama

A brief biography, and some insight into the life of Barack Obama's wife, Michelle.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qTD7geUCyM>

[EMBED]

Senator Barack Obama tells a crowd in Manning, South Carolina, why its important that they can't give up in the fight for equality.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz8C3X7tyHg>

[EMBED]

How Can We Make this Country Better?

We want to hear your ideas - visit www.barackobama.com/youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk3hpVt8Nfk>

[EMBED]

Obama Fired Up and Ready to Go at the JJ Dinner

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tydfsfsQiyC>

[EMBED]

High and Dry Barack Obama talks about saving pension funds in Iowa.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1287023241/bclid1297294660/bct id1295342438>

[EMBED]

Chances I Had

Barack discusses the need to provide education and opportunities for young people.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1305025442/bctid1304990236>

[EMBED]

Barack Obama discusses his healthcare plan, and tells the personal story of a supporter in Iowa City on May 29, 2007.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eo07GYxYNSQ>

[EMBED]

Barack Obama opposed this war before it even began. Watch clips of his opposition it the Iraq War before and after the war as well as his plan for moving forward.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhpKmQCCwB8>

[EMBED]

As a guest on The Ellen Degeneres Show, Barack shows off his dancing skills.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsWpvkLCvu4>

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jlgirl (2008-02-05 16:16:00)

Really great website, thanks so much for all the work you did to put this up. Michelle's words brought tears down my cheeks.

First Iowa Daily endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-05 11:57)

The Iowa State Daily newspaper has endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today in their editorial column. Here is the text of the article:

EDITORIAL: Daily endorsement: Obama for Democrats

The Iowa State Daily | December 05, 2007

By Iowa State Daily Editorial

We endorse Sen. Barack Obama for the 2008 presidential Democratic Party nomination.

In Obama, we have a candidate who has more to offer than a strategic plan or policy that will change America for the better. What Obama brings above all else is a renewed sense of hope. The past seven years have caused our hope for a better world, a better America, to waver. We have lost a national direction, and Obama can restore that.

But his campaign isn't based on hope alone. Obama has a realistic plan to get the troops out of Iraq, instead of some poorly thought out cut-and-run debacle; he has a commitment to making the U.S. energy independent, which would solve several of our Iraq problems anyway; he takes the changes occurring in our environment seriously and would put measures in place to reduce our impact; and his universal health insurance plan is as realistic as anyone else's.

And unlike some of his counterparts, Obama isn't anchoring himself on a one-issue platform. What needs addressed in America isn't just the war in Iraq; it isn't just health care; and it isn't just that - in the Democrats' view - Bush and his cronies need to be removed from power. Obama grasps the bigger picture.

Perhaps what Obama offers most of all is a change of family. Two families have run the country for the past 20 years, and an election for Hillary would make that 24 at a minimum - longer than most college students have been alive. Political power shouldn't follow through family lines. That in itself is unhealthy for our country's image to the rest of the world as a democracy, and is an example of a political system that seems rooted in its old ways that aren't working.

One of the biggest question marks we have is Obama's level of experience, which pales in comparison to some of the other Democratic candidates. Nevertheless we wonder if that is really such a bad thing. True, he has only served on the U.S. Senate since 2004, but unlike the other candidates, he doesn't seem to be entrenched in a system that only offers pessimism - he still has the drive to offer an optimistic view.

Obama has not been afraid to throw a lot of his time and resources into trying to invigorate the younger crowd. This strategy has failed other candidates in the past, but we appreciate Obama's commitment to the generation who will inherit the country. His message to those of all ages - even those who don't vote in droves - is genuine and inspiring.

He may be raw. He may be too optimistic. But he has ignited a passion for a change in the direction this country is headed. Jump on board, because just like Obama, we're fired up and ready to support him in his quest for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Wednesday (2007-12-05 12:00)

There's been more buzz about whether Oprah Winfrey's endorsement will help Barack Obama , some suggesting it might even hurt the candidate.

I have a hard time believing that the endorsement will hurt Obama. If Frank Sinatra, with his rumored mob connections, didn't hurt John F. Kennedy, I can't see what harm Oprah could do. Of course, the Kennedy's did eventually distance themselves from Sinatra to the benefit of the Republicans who used the star's support to help get Ronald Reagan elected.

Maybe some fans will get perturbed that she is delving into politics, but how many would actually change their vote on that basis? On the other hand, I think at least some percentage of her supporters would consider her endorsement as important. Non-Oprah fans will probably just ignore the whole thing.

Jessica Biel and other celebrities to rock for Barack

Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Scarlett Johansson, Kate Walsh and Taye Diggs will be talking up Barack Obama at a big Hollywood concert set for Dec. 11.

The combination rally-fundraiser is called "Los Angeles Generation

Obama

Concert" and will be held at the Gibson Amphitheater. Tickets are available at barackobama.com.

Obama calls youth to service

Today, Barack issued a call on young people to serve their reminiscent of John F. Kennedy's plea decades ago. Here are some details of the plan:

- Expand AmeriCorps from its current 75,000 slots to 250,000 slots, enabling the program to establish five new Corps that address some of America's most pressing challenges: Classroom Corps, Health Corps, Clean Energy Corps, Veterans Corps, and Homeland Security Corps.
- Engage retiring Americans in service on a large scale by expanding and improving Senior Corps, VISTA and other programs that connect individuals over the age of 55 to volunteer opportunities.
- Double the size of the Peace Corps from 7,800 volunteers to 16,000 by its 50th anniversary in 2011 and work to partner volunteers with people from other nations.
- Establish an America's Voice Initiative to recruit and train Americans that are fluent speakers of local languages to bolster our public diplomacy efforts abroad
- Create a national online network, modeled on Craigslist, to connect volunteers to service and donation opportunities
- Establish a goal of having middle and high-schoolers contribute at least 50 hours a week to community service, and reach that goal through national guidelines for service-learning and additional resources for schools to develop successful programs.

- Connect disadvantaged youth to service opportunities and a pathway to success through the creation of Green Job Corps and the expansion of YouthBuild from 8,000 slots today to 50,000 slots over the next eight years.
- Create a new American Opportunity Tax Credit to ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for Americans willing to complete 100 hours of public service a year.
- Promote College Serve-Study by immediately increasing the percentage of Federal Work-Study Program funding that goes to community service jobs from 7 percent to 25 percent, and helping colleges and universities reach a goal of 50 percent of serve-study over time.
- Expand the capacity of the nonprofit sector by establishing a Social Investment Fund Network to provide R &D capital to encourage innovation, find out what works, and expand successful programs to scale across the country.
- Create a Social Entrepreneurship Agency to enable nonprofits to build capacity through improved collaborations with government.

[Click here for full details of the plan.](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oprah-Obama event moved to Williams-Brice Stadium (2007-12-05 15:59)

The Oprah-Obama event in South Carolina has gotten so big that the venue is now 80,000 capacity Williams-Brice Stadium. The enthusiasm in South Carolina is part of an early states surge for the Obama campaign with momentum gaining in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. From the official Obama blog:

Change of Venue for Oprah-Obama Event

By Katharine Q. Seelye

How big is Oprah in South Carolina?



Williams-Brice Stadium (Photo: gamecocksonline.cstv.com)

Barack Obama's campaign has just moved its Oprah event on Sunday from an arena in Columbia seating 18,000 to a football stadium with a capacity of more than 80,000.

Tickets, which are free, went quickly on Monday, when they were first available, and the campaign had to shut down its distribution system. Now, the campaign says, tickets aren't even necessary, although it hopes people will RSVP through its Web site.

The new venue is Williams-Brice Stadium at the University of South Carolina. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., Eastern and the event starts at 2:30 p.m.

Click the image below to RSVP:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Obama videos (2007-12-06 12:28)

Here are a couple of new Obama videos released today.

The first is the new television ad airing in Iowa today.

[EMBED]

Here is video made by volunteers of Tampa Bay for Obama reaching out to supporters in Iowa.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



????? Service (2007-12-06 15:04)

<http://obamabarack.blogspot.com/2007/12/barack-obama-video-list.html>

Obama News for Thursday (2007-12-06 16:08)

U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who knows Iowa politics probably as well as anybody, predicted in the New York Times that Barack Obama and Mitt Romney would win the Iowa caucuses.

In California, Linda Darling Hammond, a Stanford professor of education, has been named a campaign adviser to the Obama campaign.

"Barack Obama realizes that education in today's knowledge age is critical to the survival and success of both individuals and society," Darling-Hammond said. "His education plan is comprehensive – making essential, strategic investments at each stage of education, from early childhood through higher education."

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama speaks in New Hampshire about the notion of public service.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Friday (2007-12-07 11:53)

Check out the pictures from Barack Obama's Iowa college tour this week. The Illinois senator is counting on young people to turn out for the Iowa caucuses and in other early states.

The Clinton campaign has complained that Obama is encouraging out-of-state students in Iowa to register locally and participate in the caucuses, but in fact it is considered normal and proper to register in the location where one resides.



Here's a shot from UNI (more pics here):



And University of Iowa, where at least 2500 people came out in the freezing rain (more pics here):



South Carolina Senator Reese switches from Biden to Obama

State Sen. Glenn Reese of South Carolina said Friday that he was switching his support from Sen. Joe Biden to Sen. Barack Obama because he believed Barack could better unify the country.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama first on TV in Nevada (2007-12-07 16:33)

Barack Obama will be the first candidate to air television ads in the early state of Nevada. His first ad will start statewide on Tuesday and last until the caucus.

The Obama campaign already has two TV ads each in Iowa and New Hampshire and one ad airing in South Carolina.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama 2008 (2007-12-08 11:05)

There are 28 days left counting down to the early states for Barack Obama in 2008 . Here is the schedule:

Iowa – Jan 3, 2008

New Hampshire – Jan 8, 2008

Nevada – Jan 19, 2008

South Carolina – Jan 26, 2008

Although the Obama campaign is definitely gaining momentum, I still think it is too early to get overly excited.

With a lot of the important ground campaign scheduled over the holidays, many people might still tune out political-type messages. Still, we can see by the big crowds for the Oprah-Obama events, it's still possible to get people excited with a little celebrity action!

The Obama camp does not want people going to the caucus or ballot box without doing their homework. That would likely benefit the candidate with the most name ID i.e., Hillary Clinton. I would not be surprised if many people don't start really tuning in until after New Year's Day.

That means the last few days will be very important, as they usually are, in reaching those barely-concerned voters, which unfortunately still make up a substantial portion of the electorate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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18,500 Iowans battle cold to see Oprah-Obama (2007-12-08 16:04)

A massive crowd braved frigid temperatures to see Sen. Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and media star Oprah Winfrey in Iowa today with the crowd estimated at 18,500.

Here are some video clips that include a great introduction of the candidate by Oprah.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvgKHiEKVe0>

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YO-JdvD9qig>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2007-12-09 17:30:00)

Who cares about Oprah, Never could understand what was so great about her, I don't think she'll have any impact of this election, she's just another star who's going to get better treatment than the average American will ever get from another president...

(2007-12-09 08:51)

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Live video feed from South Carolina Oprah-Obama (2007-12-09 08:54)

Check out the live streaming video from the Oprah-Obama event in South Carolina. The Pre-Show starts in about two hours, but they will be broadcasting preparations from the Williams-Brice Stadium until then.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack and Oprah rock SC, off to New Hampshire (2007-12-09 15:52)

A crowd of 36,426 set a new Guinness world record when they phone banked at Williams-Brice Stadium in South Carolina prior to the main event featuring Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey. Many of the people in the audience had never been contacted previously by the campaign. Oprah brought them in, and Obama's strong, forceful speech surely won at least some of these new faces over to his side. Barack, Michelle and Oprah are off to Manchester, New Hampshire for tonight's rally at the 11,000 capacity Verizon Center.



Volunteers are briefed for tonight's even in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

theproprietor (2007-12-09 16:13:00)

Democrat Barack Obama hopes to capitalize on the so-called "Oprah Effect" which, according to a Bloomberg writer, is known to "transform books, beauty products and foods into sales blockbusters." Unfortunately, I predict it may have the opposite

effect and result in the Illinois senator's presidential aspirations being left in A Million Little Pieces.

Forgive me for the reference to James Frey's famously fabricated memoir. But with polls showing Hillary Clinton at her lowest point since announcing her candidacy and the Iowa Caucuses less than 30 days out, I predict the Clinton political machine is on the verge of striking Obama. And striking hard.

Just days before families across the nation – especially in Iowa and New Hampshire – begin gathering for Christmas, I expect the machine to kick into high gear, serving up a buffet of dirty little secrets to its lapdogs in the mainstream news media.

By the time the Iowa Caucuses are held Jan. 3, those dirty little secrets unearthed by Hillary's folks – whatever they turn out to be and regardless of whether or not they bear a shred of truth – will have raised "reasonable doubt" in the minds of the jury (a.k.a., "Iowa voters"). As a result, Hillary will win Iowa.

That victory will, of course, be heralded by the likes of CNN, the Daily Kos and the Washington Post as a precursor of things to come in the Democratic primaries. Six months and several dirty little secrets later, Hillary will have the nomination wrapped up.

And that's where the 'A Million Little Pieces' reference returns to the picture.

Remember the media frenzy that surrounded Frey's return appearance on Oprah's couch. She sat him down and, in front of millions of viewers and a studio audience full of scowling faces, chewed him out for failing to live up to her expectations. After all, Frey's book was an Oprah's Book Club selection.

The same thing is going to happen to Obama.

The man Oprah had anointed as the first black president of the United States even before the first vote was cast will be verbally flogged for having lost the Democratic Party nomination and, as a result, brought much shame and humiliation to the O.

All hail Oprah!

Anonymous (2007-12-10 13:03:00)

Enterprising Obama supporters have created Campaign Ads in support of his candidacy.

Check them out and vote for your favorite at:

<http://www.geniusrocket.com/primary>

See the Obama teaser:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQGIIKpzbn4>

Barbara Lee endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-10 11:33)

Sen. Barack Obama today got a big endorsement from Rep. Barbara Lee of Oakland.

Lee is a major force in progressive politics and an important leader in the African American community of California.

"He does represent that bridge to the future; he represents hope, new direction which our country desperate needs," Lee told the San Francisco Chronicle this morning. "This is a very powerful and defining moment for our country, and my conscience is my guide. I can't sit on the sidelines when we have an opportunity to move forward."

Lee was one of the leaders of the anti-war movement in Congress. She is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Carol Shea-Porter endorses Obama in New Hampshire (2007-12-10 15:02)

U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter will endorse Barack Obama according to the UnionLeader.com website.

New Hampshire's other congressional representative, Paul Hodes, has already endorsed Obama. The expected endorsement could further help Obama among women voters in the state.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



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The endorsements keep pouring in (2007-12-10 18:30)

State Rep. Paul Shomshor of Council Bluffs, Iowa joined the list of Obama supporters today. I can't help but think that the Oprah-Obama events over the weekend helped many people decide on Barack. It was an impressive show bringing that many people out during the dead of winter and the height of holiday shopping season, especially to outdoor arenas in Iowa and South Carolina. And this is a crucial point in the campaign where you want to show momentum building.

Shomshor is the 19th Iowa state legislator to endorse Senator Obama - placing him at a tie with Hillary Clinton. "Barack Obama spent his two decades in public service fighting for families trying to achieve the American dream, and he'll continue that fight as President," said Rep. Shomshor. "It only proves that he'll be a President that will change politics as usual, unite America and make progress on the issues our families care about the most. "

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



obama mama (2007-12-11 08:23:00)

Show your support with these amazing Obama wears.

<http://www.cafepress.com/omama>

Nevada TV campaign launched (2007-12-11 18:24)

The Obama campaign released its first television ad in Nevada using footage from Barack's announcement speech in Springfield, Illinois.

[EMBED]

Here is the text of the speech:

"I know that I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But, I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change."

In the Senate, Barack Obama challenged both parties to pass tough new ethics rules and rein in the power of lobbyists.

And he's leading by example, refusing contributions from PACs and Washington lobbyists who have too

much power today.

"They think they own this government. But we're here today to take it back."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Anonymous (2007-12-11 20:23:00)

Hi All. I did a reverse domain look-up of the folks who run: obamatruth.org, a website dedicated to smearing Mr. Obama. This is his personal information (I just called it and it works, he cussed me out actually):

Joseph J & Rebecca J Novak

532 Circle Ave

Forest Park, IL 60130-1931

(708) 366-0764

While I support free speech, I support the community's right not to tolerate offensive defamatory material that is repugnant to one's conscious. If he's wants to publish, God bless him, but we should at least let him know what we think of his trash.

FYI: I did a reverse IP look-up (using: <http://www.networksolutions.com/whois/index.jsp>) to get the address with whom www.obamatruth.org is registered. I then took that personal address and used whitepages.com to reverse locate his home phone number. I then called it to make sure it was the right guy. If you don't believe me, repeat these steps and you will land at the exact same place I did. I told him his webpage was disgusting and that he should be ashamed of himself, at which point he cussed me out and hung up. I think if enough people give him a call, he might rethink his disgusting and shameful tirade. Best of luck!

Letters for Iowa (2007-12-11 22:36)

Paul Tewes, Obama's Iowa campaign manager sent out this letter to Sam Graham-Felsen on the official barack-obama.com blog asking supporters to encourage the volunteers in Iowa.

Dear Sam, ✖ I have an unusual request for you.

I've written a few times before – my name is Paul Tewes, and I'm the state director for the Obama campaign in Iowa. I'm sure you've already heard about what's happening here, from the tightening poll numbers to the growing energy on the ground.

Our campaign has tremendous momentum, but there's a lot to do before the January 3rd caucuses.

Here's the challenge...

Our ground operation is in full swing, and we're well on our way to recruiting Precinct Captains in all of Iowa's 1,781 precincts.

Each Precinct Captain is a volunteer who has taken on a serious responsibility in their local community .

They are the backbone of our campaign in Iowa. Barack could not do this without them. ✖

Our success depends on the motivation and dedication of these everyday people. They have their own families, their own jobs, and all the other responsibilities of their lives, but they have volunteered to take on this important role in our campaign because, like you, they believe in Barack Obama.

Please take the time to share with them a word of encouragement. Share with them the common bond that binds us – belief in each other, belief in this campaign, and belief in this country.

There are two ways you can get in touch – send an online note or send an old fashioned letter in the mail, care of one of our 37 offices here in Iowa.

Write to an Iowa Precinct Captain or a volunteer now. Let them know you appreciate the effort and sacrifice they are making to win Iowa for Barack:

Send an Online Note:

<http://my.barackobama.com/emailiowavolunteers>

Send a Letter in the Mail:

<http://my.barackobama.com/writeiowavolunteers>

These Precinct Captains and volunteers are the lifeblood of our operation.

By sharing your words of encouragement and your personal reasons for supporting Barack, you could motivate someone to make that extra phone call, knock on a few more doors, or dedicate a few more hours to the cause in this crucial first-in-the-nation caucus state.

Send your message, tell your story, and make an impact now.

Thank you,

Paul

Paul Tewes

Iowa State Director

Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2007-12-12 09:42)

U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) became the third Congresswoman to endorse Barack Obama in the last three days. Barbara Lee of California and Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire endorsed the Illinois senator earlier in the week. The endorsements are giving Obama the appearance of momentum among women and could cut into Hillary Clinton's lead among women voters.



Rep. Betty McCollum

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack's plan for Americans with disabilities (2007-12-12 15:03)

Barack Obama unveiled his plan to empower Americans with disabilities.

In a speech titled "Reclaiming the American Dream," Barack says:

"I don't accept an America where we let someone go over a cliff just because they get sick. That is not who we are. If you can demonstrate that you went bankrupt because of medical expenses, then there must be a process that relieves that debt and lets you get back on your feet."



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

What's going on in the early states (2007-12-12 18:33)

Barack Obama will be on the campaign trail in Iowa until Dec. 14. Here is his schedule:

Town Hall Meeting with Special Guest Gayle King in Dubuque
Thursday, December 13, 2007 @ 5:00pm
Dubuque, IA
Town Hall Meeting With Barack Obama in Maquoketa
Thursday, December 13, 2007 @ 7:45pm
Maquoketa, IA
Meet the Candidate With Barack Obama in Monticello
Friday, December 14, 2007 @ 08:45am
Monticello, IA
Meet the Candidate With Barack Obama in Manchester
Friday, December 14, 2007 @ 2:00pm
Manchester, IA
Meet the Candidate With Barack Obama in Guttenberg
Friday, December 14, 2007 @ 5:00pm
Guttenberg, IA

Former Sen. Tom Daschle was campaigning in Iowa for Obama today and will make further stops in the northwest part of the state tomorrow.

Hillary Clinton has an event scheduled for Shenandoah, Iowa on Dec. 13. John Edwards has a number of events listed lasting through Dec. 16.

Hillary will be Nashua, New Hampshire on Dec. 15. LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will campaign for Hillary in Las Vegas, Nevada on Dec. 16.

Congressman David Bonior will campaign for John Edwards in New Hampshire on Dec. 15 and 16.

Foreign policy expert Samantha Power is campaigning for Obama in South Carolina on Dec. 13, and Michelle Obama will be in Coral Gables, Florida on Dec. 14.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Thursday (2007-12-13 08:46)

Hillary Clinton's campaign, apparently responding to their own sliding poll numbers, have gone personal bringing up Barack Obama's drug use as a teenager that the Illinois senator mentions in his own writings.

It's a risky approach by the Clinton group especially in Iowa, where negative campaigning is often ooked down at. Mutual attacks by Howard Dean and Richard Gephardt during the last Iowa caucus in 2004 are believed to have helped John Kerry slip by the frontrunners to a surprise victory.

Four Dem. County Chairs endorse Obama

Four leaders of the Democratic Party at the county level in Iowa have endorsed Barack Obama today.

The county chairs of Appanoose, Benton, Lucas, and Monroe counties have promised to campaign for Obama in their respective counties.

Yesterday, former South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman, Joe Erwin, who stepped down earlier this year, announced his support for the senator.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Black Enterprise: 'Why Barack Obama Should Be President' (2007-12-13 12:08)

The January issue of Black Enterprise magazine will feature a cover story entitled "Why Barack Obama Should be President."

Here's a copy of the Black Enterprise press release:



In January's BLACK ENTERPRISE: Why Barack Obama Should Be President. Plus: The Next Generation of Young Entrepreneurs, Bargain Stocks for 2008 and Developing Your Estate Plan. (PRNewsFoto/BLACK ENTERPRISE)

NEW YORK, NY UNITED STATES

Publication's January Issue Identifies The Key Factors Behind The Obama Surge And Why He Will Win This November

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 /PRNewswire/ – Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama says "the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do, this election," and "telling the American people what we think they want to hear – instead of telling the American people what they need to hear – will no longer be acceptable."

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20071213/NYTH071>)

So goes the surging message of Barack Obama, the man who has presented America with the real possibility of an elected black president. With the primary season quickly approaching, BLACK ENTERPRISE (BE) hit the campaign trail with the electrifying contender, gaining exclusive insight into his platform and strategy. In the January issue cover feature, "Why Barack Obama Should Be President," BE builds a compelling case for Obama becoming president of the United States by identifying six key reasons he has risen in the polls – and how he will win the Oval Office this November.

Barack Obama first appeared on the cover of BE in October 2004 next to the headline The Next Big Thing in Politics. Today he makes good on that prophecy as audiences in Iowa, New Hampshire, and other key battleground states greet him with thunderous applause. "I don't want to spend the next four years re-fighting the same fights we had in the 1990s. I don't want to pit red America against blue America. I want to be president of the United States of America," says Obama.

With his galvanizing message of hope and change, Obama's campaign has created an excitement unmatched by any other, and it brings together diverse sectors of the electorate – black, white, Latino, young, old, blue-collar, and white-collar.

In researching January's cover feature, BE spent months talking to political analysts, and party activists and supporters to identify why Obama has the right stuff to win:

- A Message for All People. Obama has hit on universal themes that resonate with voters across racial, gender, and demographic lines, an approach necessary for a black candidate looking to be elected. He's also been successful in garnering support from divergent constituencies, including Hollywood, the Bible Belt, and corporate America. In addition to the war, domestic issues, such as education and employment, resonate without the usual Beltway rhetoric.
- A Winning Team. Obama has assembled a multi-ethnic lineup of political strategists and an all-star team of more than 200 policy advisers, including heavy-hitters from the Clinton administration. His top-notch team is making sure his campaign speeches, debate appearances, and policy statements set him apart from the other Democratic contenders, especially presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton.
- The Funds to Compete. Running for president takes loads of money and Obama has demonstrated a keen ability to raise cash. Through the third quarter of 2007 he raised \$80.3 million. In addition, his campaign has witnessed a surge in online contributions – more than \$20 million from small donors, those contributing \$200 or less. "We have more small donors than all of the Democratic candidates combined," says Obama. "These are people who will definitely show up to vote."
- The Black Vote. Obama's major challenge for the black vote lies with chief opponent, Hillary Clinton. She's garnered enormous loyalty and name recognition within the black community largely due to the popularity of her husband. But history may be on Obama's side. African Americans tend to embrace black candidates – particularly democratic ones – who speak to the general electorate and closely represent their agenda.
- Support from White America. Much has changed in America with the emergence of several black mayors, governors, secretaries of state, and CEOs – suggesting that voters have become more comfortable with African Americans as leaders. Traveling with his campaign in Iowa, BE reporters witnessed first-hand how Obama's universal themes connect with crowds. At events, Obama packs them in like a rock star: he drew 10,000 in Iowa City, 7,000 in Ames, and 4,500 in Davenport.
- America is Ready for a Change. Obama offers the change in leadership that many are seeking: youth and vitality, an unyielding hope for the future, and a rejection of the Washington-inside mind-set. His independence also sets him apart as he is the only candidate who has taken less than 1 % of his donations from political action committees and none from lobbyists. He is also pushing for a transparent presidency, one in which voters are more involved with and informed about government activities via the Internet and town hall meetings. "It will no longer be business as usual in the White House," says Obama. "There will be a new openness in Washington."

The January 2008 issue of BLACK ENTERPRISE hits newsstands on December 25, 2007.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Barack strong in last Iowa debate (2007-12-13 16:45)

The last Iowa debate took place today with Barack Obama getting probably the best one-liner when said he would seek Hillary Clinton's advice when he became president.

It was a rather sedate affair, with Barack looking cool and presidential. Hillary Clinton looked tired and more stressed out than in the last few debates.

Check out this YouTube video on focus group interviews conducted after the debate:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama a step forward on Education (2007-12-13 17:59)

The OpenEducation.net blog explains why Barack Obama is the choice for better education in America:

At OpenEducation, we believe this innovative concept is analogous to a research and development type of approach to education. It is time that education join the world of business where research and development become a critical component of the educational landscape. The fact that Obama seeks to have home districts develop proposals in consultation with their local teachers' unions demonstrates that he understands the importance of engaging the teacher's union in this process.

Clinton Is Status Quo, Obama Is A Step Forward Based on what we see, Ms. Clinton is the candidate for the status quo, one who might tweak the system yet has little to offer that would truly set a new path. Obama on the other hand, as he has campaigned, would indeed be the candidate of change, one who would seek to foster a new direction for education in America.

Obama our choice for President in 2008

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2007-12-14 16:09:00)

Mor O,

Please win, I can't listen to her evil laugh one more time or I will barf!!!!!!

dk (2007-12-14 17:27:00)

Listening to Senator Obama leaves me with a sense that he is someone new on the political scene. Having worked in politics since 1968, and as a former Legislative Representative, I have grave fears that the mud slinging Republicans will eat Barak for breakfast. Just remember Max Cleland, who gave up three limbs in Vietnam being called a terrorist; his picture flanked in the middle of Osama Bin Ladin and Saddam Hussein. I believe that the time is now for Barak to release his middle name of Hussein, the very man that we deposed and are fighting a war in Iraq. Please, define yourself before these creatures define you. Recall, McCain in South Carolina, smeared by the Bush campaign. Do it now before they do it to you!

Anonymous (2009-12-12 18:28:25)
i'm gonna make my own site about it

Africa and Darfur Forum in Las Vegas with Samantha Power (2007-12-14 10:25)

The Obama campaign has opened three new offices in Nevada to capitalize on recent momentum in the early states. They've also organized a global issues forum in Las Vegas focused on Darfur and African issues featuring Samantha Power:

What:

Issues Forum on Darfur and Africa

When:

This Saturday, December 15th at 1:30 PM

Where:

University of Nevada, Las Vegas Student Union room 208A

Address: (click for Map)

4505 Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89154

Moyer Student Union-208 A

Invite your undecided friends, get your questions answered, and have a good time on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus.

Power is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide" and a professor of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Power will discuss the crisis in Darfur, the current geopolitical situation in Africa, and Senator Obama's plan to fight global poverty and disease as part of his larger foreign policy platform.

Check out these great video's with Samantha Power discussing Barack and his approach to Foreign Policy.

Samantha Power on Charlie Rose

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-12-14 12:33)

Barack Obama received a newspaper endorsement in New Hampshire today from the Littleton Courier:



...Obama's personality comes across as calm, intellectual and diplomatic, yet firm, decisive and valued. These are all important qualities for our next president. The Illinois senator, at times, seems to project the image of an outsider seeking to reform foreign policy, health care and the economy.

Obama comes across as a man willing to listen to the ideas of others, but unwilling to compromise America's values to appease enemy leaders or achieve a false peace....

Although it is an overused phrase, America has reached a critical point. Threats from within, as well as without, threaten our values; and it will take an educated, steadfast and reasonable personality to overcome these obstacles. Barack Obama should be the Democratic nomination for president.

Read the full article at the Littleton Courier. **Idaho endorsements**

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Read the full article at the Littleton Courier.

Idaho endorsements

Obama also picked up a pair of endorsements in the state of Idaho today:

Ada County Commissioner Paul Woods is serving his first term as Ada County Commissioner (elected in 2006). He has worked hard to sustain Ada County's quality of life, restore cooperative governance, fight & treat substance abuse, and monitor and assist planned community efforts in Boise and surrounding areas. Commissioner Woods supports Barack Obama for President.

State Senator Mike Burkett has served proudly as the District 19 Senator in Boise, ID, since 2002. In prior years, Sen. Burkett has acted as the Assistant Minority Leader and also served several terms in the Idaho State Legislature between 1988-1992. For many years, he has worked hard to represent the citizens of District 19 and the State of Idaho by improving access and affordability to education and improve our quality way of life. Sen. Burkett supports Barack Obama for President.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Zogby: The Obama Phenomenon (2007-12-14 14:46)

James Zogby analyzes the movement created by Barack Obama and his supporters today in The Huffington Post. First, he poses a question:

Over the past few weeks, as interest has grown in the 2008 U.S. presidential contest, I've been asked by friends from overseas for my opinion on Barack Obama. Could I explain the phenomenon they are seeing on television? Can he win?

He gives as an example of Barack's appeal the testimony of his daughter Sarah, a working mother:

She had heard Barack Obama speak and was moved by what she described as his authenticity and clarity. He did not appear to her to be typical. His call for a new approach to politics appealed to her. Quite simply, she said, "He gives me hope."

"Your generation," she continued, "had many such figures," mentioning the Kennedys and Dr. King. "We have not. I want to believe he can make a difference."

In conclusion, Zogby writes:

Can he win? His polling numbers are improving daily. In the end, however, the voters in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada will answer that question in January. But is he real, and does the movement he has inspired matter? The answer to that is self-evidently yes.

Read the whole article.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's New Plan for the Arts (2007-12-14 17:39)

After announcing the endorsement of New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod of Concord, the Barack Obama campaign outlined the candidate's plan to promote the arts:

- Invest in arts education to reinvigorate the kind of creativity and innovation that has made America great and that it will take to compete in a global economy
- Support increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts
- Promote cultural diplomacy to encourage American artists, performers, and thinkers to represent our best values and ideals throughout the world
- Ensure that artists have access to health insurance and are treated fairly under the tax code

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Iowa Obama Videos (2007-12-14 19:37)

Check out the crowd of supporters that gathered for the Des Moines Register debate yesterday in Iowa.

[EMBED]

Susan Klopfer of Iowa was once a fervent volunteer for Hillary Clinton but she came to the conclusion that Barack Obama was the best hope for change. Listen to her tell why:

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXPnMfIGkvl>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama: Dahil Sa Iyo (2007-12-15 08:59)

Here is a video I made for Filipino Americans for Barack Obama. It features the late Nat King Cole singing the Filipino classic song "Dahil Sa Iyo."

Barack is a cosponsor and advocate of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007 (HR-760, and S.1315).

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Boston Globe endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-15 22:11)

The influential Boston Globe newspaper endorsed Barack Obama today offsetting an endorsement by the Des Moines Register of Hillary Clinton.

Influential throughout New England, including the early state of New Hampshire, where voting occurs on Jan. 8.

"It is true that all the other Democratic contenders have more conventional resumes, and have spent more time in Washington," the Globe's editorial board wrote.

"But that exposure has tended to give them a sense of government's constraints. Obama is more open to its possibilities."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Boston Globe endorsement (full text) (2007-12-16 10:13)

Here is the full text of the Boston Globe's endorsement of Barack Obama .

The Boston Globe

For the Democrats: Barack Obama

December 15, 2007

THE FIRST American president of the 21st century has not appreciated the intricate realities of our age. The next president must. The most sobering challenges that face this country - terrorism, climate change, disease pandemics - are global. America needs a president with an intuitive sense of the wider world, with all its perils and opportunities. Senator Barack Obama of Illinois has this understanding at his core. The Globe endorses his candidacy in New Hampshire's Democratic presidential primary Jan. 8.

Many have remarked on Obama's extraordinary biography: that he is the biracial son of a father from Kenya and a mother who had him at 18; that he was raised in the dynamic, multi-ethnic cultures of Hawaii and Indonesia; that he went from being president of the Harvard Law Review to the gritty and often thankless work of community organizing in Chicago; that, at 46, he would be the first post-baby-boom president.

What is more extraordinary is how Obama seals each of these experiences to his politics. One of the lessons he took from organizing poor families in Chicago, he says, was "how much people felt locked out of their government," even at the local level. That experience anchors his commitment to transparency and accountability in Washington.

Similarly, his exposure to foreign lands as a child and his own complex racial identity have made him at ease with diversity - of point of view as well as race or religion. "I've had to negotiate through different cultures my whole life," he says. He speaks with clarity and directness, and he is also a listener, a lost art in our politics.

In what looks like prescience today, Obama was against the Iraq war from the start. But his is not the stereotypical 1960s antiwar reflex. "I don't oppose all wars," he said in the fall of 2002. "I'm opposed to rash wars."

When it comes to waging peace, Obama has the leadership skills to reset the country's reputation in the world. He notes, for example, that the United States would be in a stronger position with Iran if it took more seriously its own commitment to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. His bill, cosponsored with Senator Richard Lugar, to add conventional weapons to the nation's threat reduction initiative, became law this year.

On domestic issues, the major Democratic candidates are reduced to parsing slivers of difference. But Obama has been more forthright in declaring his slightly heterodox positions to traditional Democratic constituencies. His support for merit pay for teachers, or a cap on carbon emissions, suggests a healthy independence from the established order.

The first major bill to Obama's name in the Illinois Legislature was on campaign ethics reform. In Washington, he coauthored this year's sweeping congressional lobbying reform law. When he describes his approach to healthcare negotiations, he says, "The insurance and drug companies will get a seat at the table, but they won't get to buy every chair."

Obama's critics, and even many who want to support him, worry about his relative lack of experience. It is true that other Democratic contenders have more conventional resumes and have spent more time in Washington. But that exposure has tended to give them a sense of government's constraints. Obama is more animated by its possibilities.

In our view, the choice on the Democratic side is between Obama and Hillary Clinton. Clinton has run a diligent, serious campaign, and her command of the issues is deep and reassuring. But her approach is

needlessly defensive, a backward glance at the bruising political battles of the 1990s. Obama's candidacy looks forward.

Obama's memoir, "Dreams From My Father," is divided into three main sections. The first is a reflection on his youthful search for identity. The second recounts his days in Chicago, which include the first stirrings of a religious life. The third is a roots pilgrimage to Kenya, to better understand his often absent father. It is hard to read this book without longing for a president with this level of introspection, honesty, and maturity - and Obama published it when he was only 33. "I genuinely believe that our security and prosperity are going to depend on how we manage our continued integration into the rest of the world," he says. Obama's story is the American story, a deeply affecting tale of possibility. People who vote for him vote their hopes. Even after seven desolating years, this country has not forgotten how to hope.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Health Care (2007-12-16 10:43)

THE HEALTH CARE PROBLEM

The U.S. spends \$2 trillion on health care every year, and offers the best medical technology and scientific research in the world. Yet, the benefits of the American health care system come at a price that an increasing number of individuals and families, employers and employees, and public and private providers cannot afford.

Barack Obama discusses healthcare, and the personal story of one of his supporters in Iowa City on May 29, 2007.; Barack; Healthcare; Obama; iowa; <http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid960399001http://www.brightcove.com/channel.jsp?channel=353512430>

[EMBED]

47 million Americans - including nearly 9 million children - lack health insurance.

Health care costs are skyrocketing.

Too little is spent on prevention and public health.

Health Care Overview

Lowering health care costs and ensuring affordable, high-quality health care for all

The Obama plan will save a typical American family up to \$2,500 every year on premiums by:

1. Providing affordable, comprehensive and flexible health coverage for every American;
2. Modernizing the U.S. health care system to contain escalating health care costs and improve patient care; and
3. Promoting prevention and strengthening public health to prevent disease and protect against disasters.

Quality, Affordable & Portable Health Care Coverage for All

The Obama plan both builds upon and improves our current insurance system, upon which most Americans continue to rely, and leaves Medicare intact for older and disabled Americans.

1. Obama's Plan to Cover the Uninsured.

- Guaranteed eligibility.
- Comprehensive benefits.
- Affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles.
- Subsidies.
- Simplifying paperwork and reining in health costs.
- Easy enrollment.
- Portability and choice.
- Quality and efficiency.

2. National Health Care Insurance Exchange.

3. Employer Health Care Contribution.

4. Mandatory Health Care Coverage of Children.

5. Expansion of Medicaid and SCHIP.

6. Flexibility for State Plans.

Modernizing the U.S. Health Care System to Lower Costs and Improve Quality

1. Reducing Health Care Costs of Catastrophic Illnesses for Employers and their Employees.

2. Lowering Costs by Ensuring Patients Receive and Providers Deliver Quality Health Care .

Helping Patients

- Supporting disease management programs.
- Coordinate and integrate health care .
- Require full transparency about health care quality and costs and promote patient safety.
- Align incentives for excellence.
- Support comparative health care effectiveness research.
- Tackle disparities in health care .
- Reform medical malpractice.

3. Lowering Costs through Investment in Electronic Health Care Information Technology Systems.

4. Lowering Health Care Costs by Increasing Competition in the Insurance and Drug Markets.

- Increasing competition in health care industry.
- Lowering prescription drug costs.

Promoting Illness Prevention and Strengthening Public Health

1. Employers. Obama believes that worksite interventions hold tremendous potential to influence public health and will expand and reward these efforts.
2. School Systems. Obama will work with schools to create more healthy environments for children.
3. Workforce. Obama will expand funding - including loan repayment, adequate reimbursement, grants for training curricula, and infrastructure support to improve working conditions - to ensure a strong workforce that will champion prevention and public health activities.
4. Individuals and Families. The Obama health plan will require coverage of essential clinical preventive services such as cancer screenings and smoking cessation programs in all federally supported health plans including Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP and the new public plan. In addition, Obama will increase funding to expand community based preventive interventions to help Americans make better choices that can help ward off chronic and preventable diseases and improve their health.
5. Federal, State and Local Governments. . The federal government and state and local governments play critical roles in disease prevention and health promotion activities.

As president, Barack Obama will prioritize these activities to improve prevention and public health, as well as advocate for the following initiatives:

- Advance the Biomedical Research Field.
- Fight AIDS Worldwide.
- Support Americans with Disabilities.
- Improve Mental Health Care .
- Protect Our Children from Lead Poisoning.
- Reduce Risks of Mercury Pollution.
- Support Americans with Autism.

Increase Transparency in the Health Care Industry

As President, Obama will work to implement important proposals that empower individuals in dealing with the health care industry, including:

- Providing easy-to-understand comparisons of the medicare prescription drug plans
- Requiring full transparency about health care quality and costs.
- Promoting patient safety through full disclosure.
- Figuring out what works in health care .

Barack Obama on Health Care

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Truth Be Told : A Time for Change (2007-12-16 19:01)

Check out this grassroots poem written in support of Barack Obama by Olatunji Talabi

Truth Be Told : A Time for Change Who Pays the Price, When Our Leader Lies
Who Sheds the Tears, When a Hero Dies
Who Wipes the Tears, from his Mother's eyes.
Who Lends a Hand When a Hero Tries
To Pick Up the Pieces of His Own Life
Who Risked his Life for You and I
Who Fed us Lies and Who Was Right
Who'll Lead Us Now, You Decide
What We Need Is An Agent of Change
If We Really Want to See a Change
Some People Think We Need More of the Same
We Know the End Result Will be the Same
Because We Know There Is a Better Way
So We Know There is a Brighter Day
How Can We Spend a Trillion Dollars On War
When It Wasn't One Worth Fighting For
What Good Is Wealth, Without Good Health
What Good is Health, When You Have No Wealth
Who Lifts Our Spirit Enough to Hope
Who Gives Us Hope When We Need It Most
Is What Some Say, Really What They Mean
Is What They Mean, Really What It Seems
Who Seems The Same, Who Leads A Change
The Choice Is Yours, It's Time For Change

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2007-12-17 09:19)

Democratic Congressman Dave Loebsack of Iowa endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today. Rep. Loebsack made the following statement of support:

In a field of strong candidates, Barack is the strongest. What impresses me about Barack is his commitment to changing the way business is done in Washington. He understands that to pass universal health care, make energy independence a reality, and meet the other challenges we face, we need leadership that can bring all Americans together around a shared purpose.

Obama is energizing, organizing, and mobilizing ordinary Americans to get involved in their democracy in a way I haven't seen in a long time. And he's building the kind of grassroots movement that will not just make him the most electable Democrat in a general election, but will help him enter the White House with a mandate for change that Washington can't ignore.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama Muslim? (2007-12-18 09:44)

Democracy should be about liberty, equality and fraternity, and whether one is a Muslim or has the middle name "Hussein" should be irrelevant. Unfortunately, that is not the case in post-9-11 America and in the climate of fear created by the neo-conservatives.

However, when you really think about it the idea that Barack Obama is a hidden Muslim doesn't make much sense. It would entail a 10-year-old kid keeping his supposed Muslim faith secret from his grandparents who raised him, from classmates, teachers and friends through elementary, middle and high school in Honolulu, Hawai'i, that bastion of Talibanism.

Then continuing to hide his religion as an adult, not praying publicly or going to mosque, throughout college and even hiding the fact from his wife of 15 years and from his kids while all the time attending a Christian church.

Supposedly Barack kept the secret since age 10 because he had ambitions at that young age to become president!

Any kid who could keep a secret like that for that long must be the al-Mahdi, the Muslim messiah.

Or else, perhaps Barack is not really a Muslim?

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Michelle Obama Biography (2007-12-18 10:53)

Michelle Obama was born on January 17, 1964, to Marian and Fraser Robinson on Chicago's South Side. She has a 16 month older brother, Craig. She is 5'11" tall.

Craig is a Brown University men's basketball team coach.

Michelle's schooling

Michelle and Craig both skipped the second grade. She graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago's West Loop in 1981. After high school Michelle went on to Princeton University where in 1985 she graduated cum laude with a B.A. in sociology and a minor in African American studies. After college, Michelle continued her education at Harvard Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1988.

Michelle Obama's Career

Meet Michelle; Barack; Barack TV; Obama; meet; Michelle; This appears on the "Meet Michelle Page" <http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid474445759http://www.brightcove.com/channel.jsp?channel=353512430>

[EMBED]

For three years after law school, Michelle worked as an associate in the area of marketing and intellectual property at Chicago law firm Sidley and Austin, where she met Barack Obama. She left the corporate law world in 1991 to work as assistant to the mayor and then as assistant commissioner of planning and development for the City of Chicago.

In 1993, Michelle became founding executive director of Public Allies - Chicago, a leadership training program that received AmeriCorps National Service funding. Obama served as the Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Chicago since 1999 developing the University's Community Service Center.

She worked for the University of Chicago Hospitals beginning in 2002, first as executive director for community affairs and, beginning May, 2005, as Vice President for Community and External Affairs at the University of Chicago Hospitals. She also managed the business diversity program.

In May 2006, Essence magazine listed her among "25 of the World's Most Inspiring Women." In July 2007, Vanity Fair magazine listed her among "10 of the World's Best Dressed People". Barack, Michelle and their two daughters Malia, 9, and Sasha, 6, live on the south side of Chicago, where they attend Trinity United Church of Christ.

Michelle Obama is currently taking a time-out from her career to help with her husband's presidential campaign. She has been described as Obama's "secret weapon" and the "closer" in the campaign.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-05-20 12:24:00)

Does anyone know what types (and names) of the scholarships Michelle Obama received to both Princeton and Harvard?

Robert (2008-07-14 22:24:00)

I really admire them both and they have helped me to make changes and reach out.

Robert Burnside Los Angeles

Barack Obama on Iraq War (2007-12-18 11:45)

Let's compare the history of Barack Obama's stance on the Iraq War to the other two front runners, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards.

Notice that Barack is the only that has been right from the start.

Hillary Clinton

1. Voted YES on authorizing use of military force against Iraq. (Oct 2002)

" The facts that have brought us to this fateful vote are not in doubt ."

2. Agrees with Newt Gingrich that Iraq policy is a mess. (Dec 2003)

3. Phased redeployment out of Iraq, beginning immediately. Refuses to admit authorization vote was a mistake. (Oct 2006)

" If the most important thing to any of you is choosing someone who did not cast that vote or has said his vote was a mistake, then there are others to choose from. "

John Edwards

1. Voted YES on authorizing use of military force against Iraq. (Oct 2002)

" I mean, we have three different countries that, while they all present serious problems for the United States – they're dictatorships, they're involved in the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction – you know, the most imminent, clear and present threat to our country is not the same from those three countries. I think Iraq is the most serious and imminent threat to our country ."

2. Supporting Iraq war OK, but how war was conducted not OK. (Feb 2004)
3. Accepts responsibility for Iraq War vote, admits mistake and calls for troop draw down. (Feb 2007)

Barack Obama

1. Publicly opposed Iraq War on eve of invasion. (2002)

" But I also know that Saddam poses no imminent and direct threat to the United States, or to his neighbors, that the Iraqi economy is in shambles, that the Iraqi military a fraction of its former strength, and that in concert with the international community he can be contained until, in the way of all petty dictators, he falls away into the dustbin of history ."

2. He said he did not oppose all wars, but opposes Iraq during U.S. Senate campaign. (2004)

" I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war ."

3. Proposes plan to withdraw starting May 1 2007; finish by March 31 2008. (Apr 2007)

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X

Md. Anisur Rahman (2008-01-31 08:59:00)

What would an American President claiming moral leadership of the world say and do on IRAQ beyond just withdrawing from there?

To start with, a sincere apology to the Iraqi people, to start the process of healing?

Can Obama show this greatness, or is his opposition to the Iraq war merely from narrow US interest?

Anisur Rahman

Anonymous (2008-02-23 00:23:00)

I have a son in the army. and I was against the war from the start and didn't vote for it, so can I run for President. I know about as much as Obama when it comes to running this country. Bet you won't show this comment.

Buddy (2008-03-01 15:51:00)

Mar 1, 2008

This is to help clear up the war vote for the young people in America.

Obama condemns Clinton for her war vote, which just shows his inexperience.

I am in a union and we have a strike vote every 3 years. Our union president needs to have the power to negotiate with the

company. Our plant has only struck once in the history of our plant, which is about 50 years.

It would be silly for our union president to negotiate face to face with the company without the backing of people and the threat of a strike backing him up. Without the backing the people the president has lost before he even opens the door.

So our strike vote is the same vote as the senate vote. It shows that the president has the backing of the people to enter into negotiations with the threat of strike or war.

No one in our union as in the senate wanted the president to strike or as Bush to go war. But it was the president's judgment to go to war, not the senate.

Now don't get me wrong, I was against the war also, but, I can't undo the past as well as the senate. We can only hope our sacrifice doesn't go in vain.

It is easy for Obama to condemn when he was sitting on the side lines. Obama said he was right on the war vote, and looking back now he was, and President Bush shouldn't have taken the US of America to war. Obama still is too green behind the ears to run the country, and he is too liberal to negotiate for the foreign dangers around the world.

Hell, Obama said he would bomb Pakistan without even telling Pakistan it was coming and they have the bomb in an insane part of the Middle East.

How is Obama any different than President Bush when it comes to answering the PHONE at 3 am to bomb Pakistan?

fifilaroach (2008-03-26 13:33:00)

Mr Obama needs to continue to tell us in a straightforward manner exactly what he intends to do regarding the war... and that should take the Iraqi people into account as well.

<http://www.cafepress.com/sugarbelleshop/4226338>

'It's beginning to look a lot like...' (2007-12-18 15:55)

A little bit of holiday cheer for Obama supporters.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News in the Early States (2007-12-18 19:13)

Michelle Obama will be stumping in Iowa this week:

Mitchell County Event with Michelle Obama
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 @ 11:15am
Osage, IA

Winnishiek County Event with Michelle Obama
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 @ 2:20pm
Decorah, IA

Fayette County Event with Michelle Obama
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 @ 4:20pm
600 N Pine St, IA

Keokuk County Event with Michelle Obama
Thursday, December 20, 2007 @ 12:45pm
Sigourney, IA

Nevada

In Nevada, actor Kal Penn is canvassing and phone-banking with Obama volunteers.



Penn starred in several films including "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle" and "The Namesake" and currently stars in the television series House.

New Hampshire

Barack Obama will be appearing personally at four locations this week:



South Carolina

Former Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus (center) and former Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson joined former South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Joe Erwin are helping Obama out in South Carolina.



Barack's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng will at an educational forum in South Carolina:

Education Town Hall Meeting w/ Maya Soetoro-Ng
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 @ 6:00pm
Dillion, SC

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Holiday Greetings and News (2007-12-19 09:45)

The Obama campaign is releasing a holiday ad in Iowa:

[EMBED]

Iowa Press-Citizen endorses Obama



After seven years of being lost in the wilderness of oppositional presidential politics, Democrats now seem well positioned to do in 2008 what they failed to do in 2004: Replace a rogue cowboy president with a new president capable of uniting the country and resetting the nation's foreign policy and global reputation. The Press-Citizen Editorial Board thinks Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is the best candidate in a well qualified field of Democrats to make those long overdue changes. We endorse his candidacy enthusiastically.

In the past few months, Iowa City area voters have had multiple opportunities to learn about the strengths of each of Obama's Democratic rivals:

- Delaware Sen. Joe Biden brings an impressive domestic legislative record that is outshone only by his expertise as a foreign policy adviser.
- Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd provides a familial perspective on how the U.S.'s moral authority in the world has sunk from its highpoint (when Dodd's father was a prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials) to its nadir (when the Bush Administration refused to abide by the Geneva Conventions and decided to house "enemy combatants" in Guantanamo Bay).
- New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton draws from her experience as a key adviser during her husband's presidency and her seven years on Capitol Hill representing the interests of New York's various population groups.
- New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson draws upon experience even wider and deeper than Clinton's and offers real world examples from the state he has governed since 2003.
- And former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards brings a needed attention to the social, economic and cultural factors that are widening the divide between the "Two Americas."

But the more Biden, Dodd and Clinton draw upon their experience in the internecine personal battles within Washington or between world leaders, the more voters identify them with the broken political system in which they have gained their experience. And the more Richardson and Edwards lay claim to an outsider status, the more they risk having their call for change get lost in their rhetoric – which is what seems to have happened especially to Edwards in this campaign.

Obama stands tall among this already strong group as both the candidate of hope and the candidate of change we can believe in.

U.S. image abroad

We respect the experience that Clinton, Dodd, Biden and Richardson bring to the table in terms of their past meetings with world leaders. But we have to agree with Obama that foreign policy and diplomacy is more than the personal interactions of a few diplomats and leaders projected across a geo-political

screen. As Obama told the editorial board, "structuring the actual conversation ... (and) convening the leaders is the easy part."

The hard part is knowing the people – whether it's those Americans living the relatively average life that he and his wife lived until just a few years ago, whether it's the people who live in the south side Chicago neighborhoods in which Obama was an organizer, or whether it's the people who live in the same isolated Kenyan village as Obama's grandmother.

Although Obama's fellow candidates scoff that living in Indonesia for four years as a child doesn't prepare him for the complexities of foreign affairs, many people throughout the globe will take comfort knowing that the U.S. president has lived in and knows well the most populous Muslim country in the world. It will help Obama successfully convene a meeting of Muslim leaders within his first year in office.

Of course, winning over the hearts and minds of billions of skeptical Muslims will be much easier after President Obama closes Guantanamo Bay and begins a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq.

U.S. image at home

Obama is also right that resetting the world's view of the U.S. begins with making our government more transparent. As a senator, he's worked to visibly link members of Congress to their roads to nowhere and to their lowland rain forests. As president, he will hold large-scale, open discussions on the issues facing Americans in the 21st century: health care, climate change, comprehensive immigration reform, border security, tax policy, education and economic development.

Unlike the health care overhaul attempted during Bill Clinton's administration, for example, Obama has pledged to hold open meetings and conferences for all the nation to see. Bringing together doctors, nurses, patients and hospital administrators – as well as representatives of the drug and insurance companies – Obama will produce a plan that moves beyond the limits of backroom politics.

It's true that a single-payer health care system would make the most sense if the U.S. were establishing a system from scratch. But Obama understands that, given more than half-century history of employer-provided health care and its supporting industry, the nation can't easily make a 180-degree turn. Nor can citizens wait around for some ideologically pure system to be developed. Because people need help now, Obama's plan provides the best alternative: Establishing a government system that covers those ineligible for private care and making it effective enough that others might eventually look to join it.

He will use the bully pulpit of the presidency to likewise address climate change, education and economic opportunity.

Politics of hope, unity

During the recent Des Moines Register debate, Obama joked that he is looking forward to Clinton serving as his presidential adviser. But we hope he is serious about drawing upon the wealth of experience and talent represented in his presidential rivals.

Indeed, the first test of Obama's role as a true uniter will be to bring together his party into a winning coalition in November 2008. In that process, we urge him to infuse his campaign with a little more of Edwards' public focus on poverty – while avoiding the flights of populist rhetoric that has made Edwards' good analysis sometimes too easy for critics to dismiss.

Obama has the right vision for a new national politics and a new global reputation. He now needs voters and supporters who will help him transform that vision into reality. It's a transformation that should have started three years ago. Neither the nation nor the world can wait any longer.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-02-13 12:15:52)

Amiable dispatch and this mail helped me alot in my college assignement. Say thank you you as your information.

Europeans favor Barack Obama among candidates (2007-12-19 13:33)

Two polls from Europe, one on the progressive blog of Social Europe Journal, and the other from conservative blogger Iain Dale, suggest Barack Obama is the most popular among U.S. presidential candidates across the Atlantic.

On Social Europe Blog poll, 41.3 % of the readers favored Barack Obama, followed by Hillary Clinton with 35.8 %. John Edwards came in third with 12.1 %.

On Iain Dale's poll, surprisingly more than 50 percent liked Obama compared to only 23 percent for Clinton.

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TEDO (2007-12-19 14:46:00)

hey paul! i'm a filipino journalist based in chicago. are you part of the obama campaign? – ted

Paul Kekai Manansala (2007-12-19 16:57:00)

Hi Ted, not officially, but I'm a member of the local Sacramento for Obama group.

You're right there at Obama headquarters.

'I support Barack Obama' (2007-12-19 15:29)

A number of prominent journalists, column writers and bloggers, have endorsed Barack Obama today.

The Des Moines Register may have chosen Hillary Clinton, but one of their more prominent columnists is supporting Obama:

Basu: Obama can heal divisions, win hearts and minds

I remember wishing Hillary Clinton would run. Not last January, when she announced, but before the 2004 election, when someone with her intellectual heft and stature was needed to stand up to the Bush/Rove/ Rumsfeld cabal and dismantle its agenda.

But Clinton didn't run then, and when she jumped into this year's race, days after Barack Obama, it was a different field and a different moment.

This moment belongs to Obama.

The White House is virtually imploding after four more years of bungling the war, the economy and domestic crises such as Hurricane Katrina. With the president's poll numbers in the 20s and Rove, Rumsfeld and Ashcroft on the run, this is the moment for a fresh start.

This newspaper has endorsed Clinton on the Democratic side. I respect its decision. But after sitting through most of the same candidate meetings, watching, reading, listening and searching my conscience, I've concluded Obama is the one who can best pull off what needs to happen.

Clinton is smart, hard-working, gutsy and tough enough to absorb all the muck that's come her way. But Obama is simply a better candidate. He's that rarest of leaders, combining roots in white Midwestern

America with black Africa, and experience both organizing in barrios and editing the Harvard Law Review. He's got idealism, compassion and intellect. And he lacks the baggage Clinton comes with, including all the controversies that swirled around her husband's White House. Nor is he compromised, as she has been, by the Senate vote that got us into this quagmire in Iraq.

Clinton is likable - and polarizing. But Obama is a uniter whose very life experience promises a new chapter for America.

On major policy issues, there's more uniting this year's Democratic field than separating them. So the choice comes down to who can win, not just in electoral college votes, but in hearts and minds. Who can unite a divided public and excite people's sense of possibilities? That's where Obama leaves the rest of the pack behind.

Momentum is a hard thing to quantify. It almost has to be understood viscerally. I witnessed it in Hy-Vee Hall a couple of weeks ago, sandwiched between an unprecedented 18,000 people, all sharing a palpable sense of enthusiasm and hope. They were black, white, Latino, Asian, old, young, middle-aged and disabled.

Many had probably come to see Oprah. But when it was Obama's turn, he had them mesmerized. Some cheered and waved signs in the air. Some hugged one another, and some even got teary. It was as if no one could quite believe this youthful but commanding man, who spoke their language and echoed their dreams, might actually run America.

It was a long way from last February, when I first heard him speak and complained he was too cerebral. Between then and now, his manner has grown commanding, and presidential.

Some will say he's not seasoned enough, but one person's experience is another's baggage. Others in the field, notably Joe Biden and Chris Dodd, bring long Senate records. But the country isn't hungry for Beltway insiders.

Obama has been in politics long enough to know how it works but not so long as to be compromised or cynical. He can relate to ordinary Americans. After all, as he told us, he and his wife are just four years out of credit-card debt, and she still shops at Target.

Bill Richardson, though endearing and correct on some issues, is vague on others.

John Edwards is compelling with his passionate anti-corporate rhetoric. Unchecked corporate influence is responsible for blocking everything from truly democratic elections to health-care reform. But Edwards' hard-hitting words are hard to square with his voting record, which has been wrong on so many issues, including the Iraq war, the Patriot Act, No Child Left Behind, and Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. How could he be trusted to make the right judgments when doing so is politically risky?

I've chastized Obama for his mistakes. But he is self-reflective and able to own up to them. He not only agrees to hear opposing viewpoints in making decisions but demands to.

While I long to see a woman or a person of color be president, neither gender nor race is criteria enough. The candidate has to be viable and stand for the right things.

With its harsh ideological agenda and unapologetic cronyism, this administration has torn through our surplus, our civil liberties and our international goodwill. Democrats four years ago squandered the opportunity to take back the White House by nominating someone who represented the same old stuff. What's needed is a candidate who represents this new America, and inspires pride in it as it grows more multicultural by the day, and as our fate becomes more linked to the rest of the world's, whether through trade, terrorism, immigration or global warming. We can either embrace it or wrap ourselves in the fear and xenophobia some in the GOP are preaching.

Now is also the time to signal the world that America is not a monolithic dinosaur but dynamic and evolving, harnessing its diversity to enhance its strength. Obama could do that.

Bob Cesca of The Huffington Post and Bob Cesca's Goddamn Awesome Blog! GO! is also endorsing Obama.

I see in Senator Obama an historic character who fits within my persnickety and idealistic template for the presidency – and this time around, it happens that my idealistic choice has a realistic chance to win. So this isn't necessarily an endorsement based on ideology, but an endorsement based on that which is required from an historical perspective.

The alternatives on either side of this campaign are ultimately redundant to what we have now.

On the Republican side, each frontrunner represents a rage-inducing aspect of the present Bush regime. The Romney Unit represents the Paris Hilton fiscal policy of Bush administration; Giuliani is the unstable, crazy-ass hubristic gunslinger; and Mike Huckabee is the cross-bearing fundamentalist who floats in the same fantasy world as Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort.

On the Democratic side, John Edwards is a tough call because he has the right idea. But there was a thing with Edwards from 2004 that I can't seem to shake. And I've really, really tried. During one of the primary debates, Howard Dean stood up to answer a question. As was the campaign fashion at the time, Dean rolled up his sleeves. Then, behind him, I spotted John Edwards whose eyes suddenly widened at Dean's sleeve-rolling as if to say, Oh crap, I should roll up my sleeves now or else I won't be awesome like Howard. Then he quickly rolled up his sleeves. It was an awkwardly candid moment which revealed a lack of originality and, for my admittedly nitpicky tastes, a little too much of the staged illusion of it all. But more importantly, I imagined him doing the same thing when voting with the president on Iraq.

Senator Clinton, meanwhile, is certainly more intelligent and centrist than President Bush, but there's a secretive, calculating DLC side to the senator which drifts too dangerously close to the universe of Dick Cheney than the fresh approach her husband, President Clinton, offered in 1992.

Speaking of which, President Clinton said this week that Senator Clinton would dispatch the first President Bush on a world tour in order to repair America's reputation abroad. First, 'the hell you say?! Second, wouldn't that be just like a Cheney – to use a Bush as a political tool. Seriously, we can't have this. Not even as a speculative talking point. Not any more.

This is what we're desperately trying to escape, goddamn it. This is why it's imperative that Senator Obama win the nomination and ultimately the White House itself.

Bob Neer of the Blue Mass Group is also liking the Illinois senator:



Barack Obama is the best choice for President.

He speaks with reason and wisdom and walks with the energy of youth. He has succeeded in some of our most testing crucibles: our top universities, our poorest neighborhoods, and the rough politics of one of our largest states. His background, from nature to nurture, is living proof of the power of diversity.

...

Because Obama approaches problems, first, with reason, second, with practicality, and third, with empathy, he is able to find common ground where his rivals too often deepen differences. His positions on the war in Iraq, education, health care, energy, the environment, marriage, and a host of other issues offer enormous improvements on the status quo. More significantly for present purposes, they stand in sharp contrast, particularly on the subject of Iraq, to the deceptively nuanced positions of his chief rival Hillary Clinton (compare, for example, his actual plan for withdrawal from Iraq, with her, promise to make a plan for withdrawal.)

...

Finally, Obama has the decisive courage required to seize the day. From his decision to forsake the riches of corporate law to teach at the University of Chicago and organize in Chicago's poor communities, to

his later rebound from an election defeat in 2000 to win the 2004 Illinois Democratic Senate primary by 29 %, and the general election 70-29 (the largest electoral victory in Illinois history), to his present well-organized, well-funded headline-grabbing national campaign, Obama has displayed a remarkable ability to weave the warp and weft of his fortune with the bright colors of victory.

Reason, pragmatism, empathy, ability and decisive courage: Barack Obama is the best candidate for President.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



artemis (2007-12-20 06:16:00)

Barack Obama would be this countries next Jimmy Carter. He is a good man, but he is not ready for the presidency.

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Clinton is smart, hard-working, gutsy and tough enough to absorb all the muck that's come her way. But Obama is simply a better candidate. He's that rarest of leaders, combining roots in white Midwestern America with black Africa, and experience both organizing in barrios and editing the Harvard Law Review. He's got idealism, compassion and intellect. And he lacks the baggage Clinton comes with, including all the controversies that swirled around her husband's White House. Nor is he compromised, as she has been, by the Senate vote that got us into this quagmire in Iraq.

Clinton is likable - and polarizing. But Obama is a uniter whose very life experience promises a new chapter for America.

On major policy issues, there's more uniting this year's Democratic field than separating them. So the

choice comes down to who can win, not just in electoral college votes, but in hearts and minds. Who can unite a divided public and excite people's sense of possibilities? That's where Obama leaves the rest of the pack behind.

Momentum is a hard thing to quantify. It almost has to be understood viscerally. I witnessed it in Hy-Vee Hall a couple of weeks ago, sandwiched between an unprecedented 18,000 people, all sharing a palpable sense of enthusiasm and hope. They were black, white, Latino, Asian, old, young, middle-aged and disabled.

Many had probably come to see Oprah. But when it was Obama's turn, he had them mesmerized. Some cheered and waved signs in the air. Some hugged one another, and some even got teary. It was as if no one could quite believe this youthful but commanding man, who spoke their language and echoed their dreams, might actually run America.

It was a long way from last February, when I first heard him speak and complained he was too cerebral. Between then and now, his manner has grown commanding, and presidential.

Some will say he's not seasoned enough, but one person's experience is another's baggage. Others in the field, notably Joe Biden and Chris Dodd, bring long Senate records. But the country isn't hungry for Beltway insiders.

Obama has been in politics long enough to know how it works but not so long as to be compromised or cynical. He can relate to ordinary Americans. After all, as he told us, he and his wife are just four years out of credit-card debt, and she still shops at Target.

Bill Richardson, though endearing and correct on some issues, is vague on others.

John Edwards is compelling with his passionate anti-corporate rhetoric. Unchecked corporate influence is responsible for blocking everything from truly democratic elections to health-care reform. But Edwards' hard-hitting words are hard to square with his voting record, which has been wrong on so many issues, including the Iraq war, the Patriot Act, No Child Left Behind, and Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. How could he be trusted to make the right judgments when doing so is politically risky?

I've chastized Obama for his mistakes. But he is self-reflective and able to own up to them. He not only agrees to hear opposing viewpoints in making decisions but demands to.

While I long to see a woman or a person of color be president, neither gender nor race is criteria enough. The candidate has to be viable and stand for the right things.

With its harsh ideological agenda and unabashed cronyism, this administration has torn through our surplus, our civil liberties and our international goodwill. Democrats four years ago squandered the opportunity to take back the White House by nominating someone who represented the same old stuff. What's needed is a candidate who represents this new America, and inspires pride in it as it grows more multicultural by the day, and as our fate becomes more linked to the rest of the world's, whether through trade, terrorism, immigration or global warming. We can either embrace it or wrap ourselves in the fear and xenophobia some in the GOP are preaching.

Now is also the time to signal the world that America is not a monolithic dinosaur but dynamic and evolving, harnessing its diversity to enhance its strength. Obama could do that.

Bob Cesca of The Huffington Post and Bob Cesca's Goddamn Awesome Blog! GO! is also endorsing Obama.

I see in Senator Obama an historic character who fits within my persnickety and idealistic template for the presidency – and this time around, it happens that my idealistic choice has a realistic chance to win. So this isn't necessarily an endorsement based on ideology, but an endorsement based on that which is required from an historical perspective.

The alternatives on either side of this campaign are ultimately redundant to what we have now.

On the Republican side, each frontrunner represents a rage-inducing aspect of the present Bush regime. The Romney Unit represents the Paris Hilton fiscal policy of Bush administration; Giuliani is the unstable, crazy-ass hubristic gunslinger; and Mike Huckabee is the cross-bearing fundamentalist who floats in the same fantasy world as Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort.

On the Democratic side, John Edwards is a tough call because he has the right idea. But there was a thing with Edwards from 2004 that I can't seem to shake. And I've really, really tried. During one of the primary debates, Howard Dean stood up to answer a question. As was the campaign fashion at the time, Dean rolled up his sleeves. Then, behind him, I spotted John Edwards whose eyes suddenly widened at Dean's sleeve-rolling as if to say, Oh crap, I should roll up my sleeves now or else I won't be awesome like Howard. Then he quickly rolled up his sleeves. It was an awkwardly candid moment which revealed a lack of originality and, for my admittedly nitpicky tastes, a little too much of the staged illusion of it all. But more importantly, I imagined him doing the same thing when voting with the president on Iraq.

Senator Clinton, meanwhile, is certainly more intelligent and centrist than President Bush, but there's a secretive, calculating DLC side to the senator which drifts too dangerously close to the universe of Dick Cheney than the fresh approach her husband, President Clinton, offered in 1992.

Speaking of which, President Clinton said this week that Senator Clinton would dispatch the first President Bush on a world tour in order to repair America's reputation abroad. First, 'the hell you say?! Second, wouldn't that be just like a Cheney – to use a Bush as a political tool. Seriously, we can't have this. Not even as a speculative talking point. Not any more.

This is what we're desperately trying to escape, goddamn it. This is why it's imperative that Senator Obama win the nomination and ultimately the White House itself.

Iowa Caucus: Step-by-Step (2007-12-19 19:15)

BarackObama.com has an easy step-by-step guide for the caucus process in Iowa. Click "Next" on the graphic below to view the tutorial.

[EMBED]

You can also get more info in the Caucus Center webpage.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Obama endorsements roll in (2007-12-20 08:14)

Today, two major New Hampshire newspapers endorsed Barack Obama for President.

Portsmouth Herald: Vote for Obama in Democratic primary Jan. 8

More than any of the other Democrats in the race, we believe Obama has made the most compelling and persuasive case for his candidacy. He has talked throughout this campaign about the "urgency of the now" but has shown patience to develop both his campaign and his proposals...What separates Obama

is a positive vision combined with a unique temperament for leadership. He combines the best attributes of natural competence and political inspiration. He inspires trust that he will make sound judgments.

Valley News: The Case For Obama

Ultimately, though, the case for Obama is not just what he proposes to do but how he proposes to do it. Voters who doubt Obama's leadership skills need only look at his well-run primary campaign, which has taken on the Hillary Clinton juggernaut. Clinton is a formidable candidate – knowledgeable on the issues, a sharp debater, tenacious. She is more polished and more practiced than Obama. But she is less candid and less likely to create the working majority needed to govern effectively. She describes herself as battle-hardened, the candidate most able to beat back the Republicans. But that's precisely the problem: She is an armored warrior in a country weary of partisan and cultural warfare; Obama wears no armor. He seeks reconciliation – at home and abroad — and steps forward, ready to speak a language of common understanding.

Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia joined Gov. Tim Kaine in supporting Obama. In Iowa, six more Democratic County Chairs, the leaders of the party in Audubon, Greene, Guthrie, Iowa, Sioux and Van Buren counties, endorsed Barack.

Yesterday, more than 60 foreign policy experts voiced their support for Obama's candidacy. Further details on Obama's foreign policy agenda can be found here: <http://barackobama.com/foreignpolicy>.

National Security Experts Endorsing Obama

Clifford Alexander, former Secretary of the Army

Ambassador Jeffrey Bader, Former Assistant US Trade Representative for Asia; Ambassador to Namibia

Professor Henri Barkey, Lehigh University, former member, State Dept. Policy Planning

Mr. Tom Bernstein, Human Rights Expert

Ambassador David Birenbaum, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. for Management and Reform

Dr. Esther Brimmer, former staff member State Department Policy Planning

Mr. Art Brown, former National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and Chief of CIA's East Asian Operations Division

Dr. Mark Brzezinski, former Director, European Affairs, National Security Council

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Adviser under President Carter

Rep. Brad Carson, former Member of Congress; Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

Dr. Joseph Cirincione, Author and Nonproliferation Expert

Ms. Bonnie Cohen, former Undersecretary of State for Management

Mr. Greg Craig, former Assistant to the President and Director of Policy Planning, State Department

Dr. Ivo Daalder, former Director, European Affairs, National Security Council

General (ret.) Tom Daniels, Texas Air National Guard

Mr. Richard Danzig, former Secretary of the Navy

Senator Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader

Ambassador Alice Dear, former U.S. Executive Director, African Development Bank

Mr. Michael Froman, Chief of Staff, Department of Treasury; Deputy Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Treasury; National Security Council Staff Member

Mr. Tony Gambino, former Mission Director, USAID, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Dr. Tobi Gati, former Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research; Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasian Affairs, National Security Council

Ambassador Robert Gelbard, former Presidential Envoy for the Balkans; Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; Ambassador to Indonesia; Ambassador to Bolivia

Dr. Matthew Goodman, Former Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council

Dr. Philip Gordon, former Director, European Affairs, National Security Council

Dr. Scott Gould, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Management

General (ret.) Scott Gration, former Director for Strategy, Policy and Planning, U.S. European Command

Adm. Don Guter, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy

General (ret.) Richard Hearney, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

Mr. Eric Holder, former Deputy Attorney General

Mr. John Holum, Former Director of ACDA and Undersecretary State for Arms Control and International Security

Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Ambassador to Mali and Madagascar, Chief of Mission to Cuba and Ethiopia

Admiral (ret.) John Hutson, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy

Mr. Jeh Johnson, former General Counsel, U.S. Air Force

Mr. Brian Katulis, Author and Middle East expert

Mr. Noel Koch, former Special Assistant to President Nixon; former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

Mr. Larry Korb, Assistant Secretary of Defense

Mr. Anthony Lake, former National Security Adviser to President Bill Clinton

Mr. David Lipton, former Under Secretary of Treasury for International Affairs

Mr. Robert Litt, former Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General; US Attorney

Mr. Jan Lodal, former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense

Mr. Frank Loy, former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs

General (ret.) Lester L. Lyles, former Vice Chief of Staff USAF 1999-2000

Governor Raymond Mabus, former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Governor of Mississippi

Dr. Michael McFaul, Professor, Political Science, Stanford University

General Tony McPeak, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force

The Honorable Abner Mikva, former White House Counsel under President Clinton; Chief Judge, DC Court of Appeals, Member of Congress (D-III)

Ambassador Donald McHenry, former US Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Ambassador Al Moses, former Ambassador to Romania

Professor Michael Nacht, Dean, School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley

Admiral (ret.) John Nathman, former Director of Navy Operations and Plans

Prof. Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Department of Geosciences and Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

F. Whitten Peters, former Secretary of the Air Force

Professor Samantha Power, Professor, Harvard University - Pulitzer Prize Winner

Ambassador Nick Rey, former Ambassador to Poland

Dr. Susan Rice, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; former Senior Director for African Affairs, National Security Council

Prof. Riordan Roett, Director of Western Hemisphere Studies and the Latin American Studies Program, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Barnett Rubin, Director of Studies and Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, NY University

Ambassador David Scheffer, former Ambassador at Large for War Crimes

Dr. Witney Schneidman, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Ms. Sarah Sewell, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Mr. Dan Shapiro, former Director, National Security Council

Representative Adam Smith, House Armed Services Committee, Chairman, Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities Subcommittee

Ms. Gayle Smith, Special Assistant to the President, National Security Council

General (ret.) James Smith, former Deputy Commander, Joint Warfare Center, US Joint Forces Command

Ms. Tara Sonenshine, former Special Assistant to the President, National Security Council

Mr. Theodore "Ted" Sorensen, former Special Counsel to President John F. Kennedy

Ms. Mona Sutphen, former Special Assistant to the National Security Advisor

Dr. Jim Vermillion, former Mission Director, USAID, Nicaragua

Professor David Victor, Stanford Law School

The Honorable Pat Wald, Chief Judge, DC Circuit, US Court of Appeals, Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, Iraq Intelligence Commission

Professor Celeste Wallender, Georgetown University

Senator Harris Wofford, former CEO Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps), United States Senator

Representative/Dr. Howard Wolpe, Former Member of Congress and Presidential Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa

Source: Barack Obama campaign

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



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Hillary preparing Barack attack websites? (2007-12-20 10:44)

According to ABC News, certainly a reputable enough news source, the Hillary Clinton campaign is preparing two websites with the express purpose of attacking her opponent, Barack Obama.

ABC News has learned that the campaign of Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., has registered the names of two Web sites with the express goal of attacking her chief rival, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

It's the first time this election cycle a presidential campaign has launched a Web site with the express purpose of launching serious criticisms on a rival.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Some grassroots Obama videos on YouTube (2007-12-20 13:44)

Check out these grassroots Obama videos from YouTube:

Musical tribute to Obama to tune of Little Drummer Boy

[EMBED]

Clinton '92 Versus Clinton '08

[EMBED]

A Tribute to our 44th President

[EMBED]

Obama Christmas

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News for Friday (2007-12-21 10:08)

According to NBC/NJ's Erin McPike, who is following the candidate around in New Hampshire, Obama said: "I talk to Al Gore about every three weeks," in a remark to global warming Santa activists last night.

Wonder if he is courting a Gore endorsement?

University of Iowa newspaper endorses Obama

The Daily Iowan, campus newspaper of the University of Iowa, announced its endorsement of Barack Obama today:

"From the start, Obama was viewed as charismatic but lacking in substance. Now, fewer than two weeks from our state caucuses, this is no longer the case," the paper wrote in its final edition before caucus night Jan. 3. "Obama's commanding oratorical abilities should not distract voters from his policy proposals, objectives that outline a return of 'united' to the United States. We believe his judgment and ideas are the best fit, not just for a party but for a people."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wonderful World for the Holidays (2007-12-21 12:13)

Check out this holiday video I amde combining Barack Obama 's theme of hope and change with Louis Armstrong's signature song "What a Wonderful World."

[EMBED]

Creative Common Credits:

Handshake, gaetan lee <http://flickr.com/photos/gaetanlee/>

Roses, sister72 <http://flickr.com/photos/sis/>

Baby 1, the dilly lama <http://flickr.com/photos/dylwalters/>

baby 2, carbonnyc <http://flickr.com/photos/carbonnyc/>

baby 3, sabrina's stash <http://flickr.com/photos/cloud10/>

kittens, lazy lightning <http://flickr.com/photos/drienne/>

puppy, noel lee <http://flickr.com/photos/noelzialee/>

rainbow, thelizardqueen http://flickr.com/photos/lizard_queen/

rainbow 2, hyak82 <http://flickr.com/photos/hyak82/>

"What a Wonderful Life" sung by Louis Armstrong and the Madrigal Singers

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Grand Opening of Sacramento Obama Field Office (2007-12-21 19:02)

Check out the video I made during the grand opening of Sacramento field office on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007.

Location: 2015 Q St., Sacramento

Phone: (916) 400-3252

There will be phone-banking from the office until Feb. 5, and canvassing every Saturday.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trFZ1JWHZSA>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News in Iowa and South Carolina (2007-12-21 19:15)

The Obama camp is very active in Iowa and South Carolina as part of its early states strategy that also covers Nevada and New Hampshire.

In Iowa, Barack Obama will be appearing at a number of locations through Dec. 23.

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Oskaloosa

December 22 | Oskaloosa, IA

Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama in Indianola

December 22 | Indianola, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Winterset

December 22 | Winterset, IA

Rally with Barack Obama in Waukee

December 22 | Waukee, IA

An Evening with Barack Obama in Urbandale

December 22 | Urbandale, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Greenfield

December 23 | Greenfield, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Harlan

December 23 | Harlan, IA

Season of Change Rally with Barack Obama in Council Bluffs

December 23 | Council Bluffs, IA

Barack also received today the endorsement of a rural newspaper, the Woodbine Twiner:

Obama has not forgotten that we must all work together to get things accomplished. Sure, Republicans and Democrats will forever bicker. But Obama gives us some sort of hope that the two parties can work as Americans – not divide as partisans...As we repair our image around the world and begin to focus on issues back home, Obama gives us the hope both can happen.

South Carolina

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine will be stumping for Obama in the Palmetto State on Saturday:

9:00 AM - Gov. Tim Kaine at the Richland/Lexington County Democratic Party Annual Joint Breakfast (Columbia, SC)
12:00 PM - Canvassing with Jesse Jackson Jr. in Sumter
1:30 PM - Press Conference with Gov. Tim Kaine and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (Columbia, SC)
4:00 PM - Camden Town Hall with Gov. Tim Kaine
5:45 PM - Lancaster Community Meeting with Gov. Tim Kaine
6:00 PM - Darlington Town Hall Meeting with Jesse Jackson Jr.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Iowa's El Latino newspaper endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-21 21:52)

El Latino, Iowa's largest Spanish language newspaper endorsed Barack Obama today. Here is translation of part of the El Latino editorial as provided by california.barackobama.com:

"Although we are living in difficult times, we are also living in a time of much opportunity and hope. We believe that Obama is the candidate of hope and the future. We make the decision to endorse with conviction, bravery, and the confidence that he best represents a better future for our families and community. We ask with all our heart that all members of the Latino community in Iowa attend that caucus to vote for Barack Obama, January 3 at 6:30pm."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Targeting swing voters (2007-12-22 09:22)

As the campaign enters high gear with a few weeks before the first contest in Iowa and about six weeks until Super Tuesday, the Obama team is looking to garner more donations and implement its get-out-the-vote (GOTV) drive. The campaign will also target swing voters, those who are deemed susceptible to persuasion, with their candidate's message.

Generally, one doesn't waste time trying to persuade hardcore supporters of one's opponents. It would not make sense, for example, for Obama supporters to spend days calling and attempting to win over dedicated volunteers from the Hillary Clinton campaign.

Instead, the Obama camp will attempt to identify those voters who haven't made up their minds yet and convince them that Barack is the best candidate. With limited time and resources the campaign must focus its grassroots efforts.

In addition to identifying persuadable voters, Obama's strategists must ascertain what issues are most important to those voters and then craft a message showing the voter why they should choose Obama.

Those swing voters who agree that Obama is the best choice are added to a list of supporters and then targeted for GOTV efforts in the last days before the election.

Election Dates Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3, 2008 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8, 2008 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19, 2008 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26, 2008 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5, 2008

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sioux City Journal endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-22 13:59)

Barack Obama picked up another key newspaper endorsement in Iowa today, when the Sioux City Journal chose the Illinois senator over the other Democratic candidates.

See the endorsement video [here](#).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Obama endorsements (2007-12-23 08:58)

A lot of endorsements poured in for Sen. Barack Obama today. From New Hampshire, the Nashua Telegraph writes:

As we look at the current state of the nation – our foreign policy, our health-care system, our schools and the very tenor of our national discourse – it's hard for us to conclude that experience is the issue.

There's plenty of experience in Washington. What's lacking is inspired leadership that can speak directly to the people over the heads of the partisan politicians and craft a national consensus not seen in decades.

What's lacking is authenticity, transparency and courtesy. What's lacking are leaders who, rather than seeking high ground from which they can dispatch their opponents, will seek common ground and common-sense solutions.

Obama can provide that leadership, and deserves the support of New Hampshire Democrats.

Richard Fabrizio , managing editor for Seacoast Media Group's N.H. weeklies, writes in the Portsmouth Herald (New Hampshire):

With nine others looking at me, I said I thought Sen. Obama could lead us based upon my belief that I could trust him and because I respect him. I was surprised, as were almost everyone else in the room, that we were in near consensus again. [...]

And from all of that I look to Sen. Obama and I hope he will stand against wasteful spending and political chicanery just as much as he will stand against an endless war and prescription drug price gouging. I hope to welcome him into my living room and listen to what he has to say and I don't feel that way about many others in this race.

The Dallas Morning News threw its support behind Obama this morning:

Mr. Obama is our choice because of his consistently solid judgment, poise under pressure and ability to campaign effectively without resorting to the divisive politics of the past.

[...]

There's been lots of noise about his lack of experience. It is a legitimate concern, considering he's a 46-year-old first-term senator. But Mr. Obama's experience in elective office matches that of Abraham Lincoln before he became president. And he has served more time on Capitol Hill than four of the past five White House occupants.

If youthful inexperience were such a liability, it has failed to resonate despite his opponents' best efforts. Mrs. Clinton, by contrast, flip-flopped over a plan to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Her campaign accepted donations from questionable sources. When Mr. Obama's support recently surged in early primary states, her campaign tried to smear him over drug use in his youth.

Two Blue Hampshire bloggers also endorsed Obama today giving his camp a lot of reason for holiday cheer in the Granite State:



Edwards for Obama

by: Andy Edwards

I am endorsing Sen. Barack Obama for President. He is the only one who presents a real departure from conventional thinking inside the beltway and who will act as a catalyst for change both within the American political system and with our image abroad.

...

He doesn't talk about problems in terms of demagogic or sensational rhetoric. He approaches problems objectively, open-minded but with a thought process derived from steadfast democratic principles. He believes that we should never sacrifice our principles, and that includes when they are challenged from our side as well. He is always going to listen to what each person has to say, and will consider the different perspectives before making the best decision - a search for truth, in complete transparency.

...

When Barack Obama tells you what he wants to do as President, he lets you get inside his head.

Mike Hoefer is a resident of Richmond, NH in Cheshire county.



Hoefer for Obama

by: Mike Hoefer

...

Obama's Technology plan is impressive and shows he understands the power of good technology in Government. He "gets it" because the plan is not just technology (routers, wireless spectrum and like) but about communication and making government more open and transparent. If they can find the right CTO, and it will not be easy, it could really "flip the funnel" on information regarding how Government is run. Sunlight is the best disinfectant they say.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wayne Ford endorsement gives Obama Iowa Lead (2007-12-23 09:32)



Source: <http://www.iowaindependent.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=1711>

Rep. Wayne Ford of Des Moines endorsed Barack Obama Sunday giving him the lead in endorsements from Iowa Legislators with 20 to Hillary Clinton's 19 according to the Iowa Independent.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack in Iowa (2007-12-23 15:35)

Barack Obama has a very busy schedule in Iowa with just a short break for Christmas.

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Greenfield

December 23 | Greenfield, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Harlan

December 23 | Harlan, IA

Season of Change Rally with Barack Obama in Council Bluffs

December 23 | Council Bluffs, IA

Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama in Mason City

December 26 | Mason City, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Webster City

December 26 | Webster City, IA

Rally with Barack Obama in Fort Dodge

December 26 | Fort Dodge, IA

Rally with Barack Obama in Carroll

December 26 | Carroll, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Nevada

December 27 | Nevada, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Marshalltown

December 27 | Marshalltown, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Toledo

December 27 | Toledo, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Vinton

December 27 | Vinton, IA

Meet the Candidate with Barack Obama in Williamsburg

December 28 | Williamsburg, IA

Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama in Coralville (Johnson County)

December 28 | Coralville, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Clinton
December 28 | Clinton, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Davenport
December 28 | Davenport, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Muscatine
December 28 | Muscatine, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Burlington
December 29 | Burlington, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Fort Madison
December 29 | Fort Madison, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Keokuk
December 29 | Keokuk, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Mount Pleasant
December 29 | Mount Pleasant, IA
Rally with Barack Obama in Ottumwa
December 29 | Ottumwa, IA

Barack in Indianola Saturday [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr and Gov. Tim Kaine (2007-12-23 18:55)

Watch highlights from the speeches of Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) and Gov. Tim Kaine (D - Virginia) supporting Barack Obama yesterday in Columbia, South Carolina .

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Christmas Videos (2007-12-24 12:50)

Some grassroots YouTube videos supporting Barack Obama this holiday season.

Obama for Change Holiday Video

[EMBED]

Happy Obama Christmas

[EMBED]

Obama Christmas 2

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Fired Up? (2007-12-26 11:24)

[EMBED]

http://youtube.com/watch?v=ycPWiu_KIHO

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Gov. Deval Patrick to visit early states for Obama (2007-12-26 12:06)



According to a report from the Boston Herald, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick will stump for presidential candidate Barack Obama in the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The exact dates of his visits are unknown.

Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

More bloggers endorse Obama (2007-12-26 13:54)

Michael Medavoy, studio chief/producer at Phoenix Pictures and a Huffington Post blogger, has endorsed the candidacy of Barack Obama for president:

In my view, the Obama Candidacy is about more than just an end to the war abroad. I'm not suggesting an immediate withdrawal of our troops from foreign soil. It is about an end to the war in America – a cultural and religious war that eats at our nation's soul. Repairing America's image to the world is going to be one of the major challenges that this country will be facing. We are all immigrants, or the children of immigrants, who have come to this land looking for the American Dream. I believe that as the next President of the United States, Barack Obama can make this dream a reality.

Ken Reich, a writer and editor for the Los Angeles Times for 39 years has also given the nod to Obama:

Barack Obama is an inspiring example of young idealism, intelligence and commitment to principle. All of these attributes make him an outstanding candidate. Growing up from a biracial background, spending time as a youth abroad and in multiracial Hawaii, an extremely talented student at the Harvard Law School, where he headed the Law Review, serving as a legislator in Illinois and then the state's U.S. Senator, he has never ceased to be distinguished and to develop his abilities. His equitable temperament, wonderful family and tremendous speaking ability have made him already a hero to countless Americans. [...]

It is sometimes said that Obama is inexperienced. But he has had a lot of experience in pursuits that count, and he is four years older than John Kennedy or Theodore Roosevelt when they assumed the presidency. I am certain he would name an able cabinet, and presume he too would be careful in his selection of a running mate.

Take Back the Times: This Blog Endorses McCain, Obama As Nominees

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Ottumwa Courier endorses Obama (2007-12-26 21:27)

The Ottumwa Courier of Iowa gave its endorsement today to Barack Obama:

But Iowa Democrats have a real choice next month and there is one politician who we believe will not only create change, he'll inspire others to do the same.

Barack Obama has earned our support in the Iowa caucuses.

Americans clamor for change. And every election cycle, a candidate or several candidates will offer his/her ideas on how they would change the course of American governance.

"I think this is a 'change' election," he told the Courier editorial board. "Change is more than just changing political parties. The culture of politics in Washington has to change. And to change it, you've got to get the American people involved."

On domestic issues, Obama insists that government has to be transparent, whether it's environmental issues, the economy or education. Open the books, he said, and let the Americans see firsthand the steps that have to be taken in order to make life better for all its citizens.

He said Washington has a responsibility to create programs that have the necessary funding so that local and state governments are not swimming in a sea of red.

"When the federal government is not fulfilling its requirements ... that is putting a burden on local governments and state governments to raise property taxes or sewer rates or what have you. That disproportionately impacts people on fixed incomes," he said.

On the war in Iraq, Obama has been consistent about his opposition to the war and his desire to move troops out as soon as possible.

Iraq is just one issue, of course, that will be part of the next president's foreign policy agenda.

Arguments, however, have been made that Obama is inexperienced and does not have the foreign policy credentials to sit in the Oval Office. But the senator is clear that experience need not be "Washington experience."

He points to his work as a community and civil rights activist and his time in the Illinois State Senate.

Obama suggests that there is a tendency not to count state and local work as real-world experience. However, much of his time doing that work has meant working across the aisle and getting things done.

Obama knows he must surround himself with people who will help him move the country down a prosperous path.

"I trust my judgment but I don't presume to know everything," he said, adding he will surround himself with qualified people.

And he promises his cabinet members will always know that "your job is not to protect me. Your job is to protect the Constitution and to be an advocate for the American people."

[Read more »](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Will Benazir Bhutto assassination impact U.S. elections? (2007-12-27 09:17)

Shortly after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the first woman leader in a modern Islamic country, even before an official statement from the Bush administration, presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani released a statement before any other candidate bringing up the specter of the war on terrorism.

There obviously was some politicking going on here, and one wonders what impact the tragic events in Pakistan today will have on the elections, both the general election and the primary election.

Will the terrorist act reinforce the "climate of fear" that has prevailed since 9-11 and play into the hands of hawks both in the primary and general?

Those interested in moving toward peace and a stabilization of world relations will have to work extra hard in the coming days and months to insure that sound judgment prevails over raw emotion.

Barack Obama released this statement today after learning of the fateful events:

I am shocked and saddened by the death of Benazir Bhutto in this terrorist atrocity. She was a respected and resilient advocate for the democratic aspirations of the Pakistani people. We join with them in mourning her loss, and stand with them in their quest for democracy and against the terrorists who threaten the common security of the world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Rep. William Delahunt endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-27 09:39)

According to the Boston Globe, Rep. William Delahunt of Massachusetts will endorse Barack Obama today:

"If Barack Obama is elected president, I daresay America will present a new face to the world, will restore, simply by his election, hope - not just within the United States, but from all corners of the world, that America's claim to moral authority is back on track and that our leadership in world affairs will see a renaissance," Delahunt told the Globe.

Delahunt's endorsement - Obama's first from the Massachusetts congressional delegation - will be made as Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton of New York spar about their respective foreign policy credentials. Clinton has argued that her experiences during her husband's presidency, including extensive international travel, make her the better candidate to deal with foreign leaders and potential terrorist threats. But Delahunt, declining to criticize Clinton by name, dismissed that notion. "Please do not equate experience with judgment. That's what this is about," Delahunt said. Voters should not "confuse experience with time in Washington," he said, noting that John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton all had limited direct foreign policy experience before taking office.

Obama opposed the Iraq war from the start, Delahunt noted, while veteran lawmakers voted to authorize force. Delahunt said he was also influenced by Obama's stated willingness - criticized by the Clinton campaign - to meet with rogue world leaders. Delahunt has met with President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, negotiating a deal for home heating oil for his constituents from a Latin American leader who once referred to President Bush as "the devil."

Delahunt's backing has elevated significance for Obama, who is seeking to convince voters he would be able to deal with myriad foreign policy challenges after just three years in the Senate. The Massachusetts lawmaker is a prominent member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was selected to represent the Congress at the UN General Assembly in September.

Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus - Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary - Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus - Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary - Jan. 26 Super Tuesday - Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Asian American org denounces Obama, calls for defeat (2007-12-27 10:12)

S. B. Woo, leader of the 80-20 Initiative, a nationwide Asian American organization, sent out the letter appended below calling on Asian Americans to denounce Barack Obama.

80-20 actually is overwhelmingly a Chinese American organization that speaks out for Asian American causes. They condemned Obama for refusing to answer six questions that are listed below.

Call To Action – Defeat Obama

Save this newsletter for forwarding to friends today & later

In response to Sen. Obama's steadfast refusal to address the grievance faced by Asian Ams, and given that the presidential primary season will begin in 7 days, the Board of 80-20 has voted unanimously to **defeat Sen. Obama's candidacy in the Democratic primary** unless he replies to OUR questionnaire with all yeses. This resolution has been formally transmitted to Sen. Obama .

Until further notice, please vote in the Dem. Primary for Senators **Biden or Clinton or Dodd or Edwards or Gravel**s who have readily replied to OUR questionnaire with all yeses. They even emphasized that remedying such inequities was one reason they wanted to be the President. Regrettably, none of the Republican candidates have replied with a single yes yet, so they have not earned our support.

In addition, please forward this newsletter to your friends and relatives in **Iowa , New Hampshire , California** and the other states. Ask them to in turn forward it to their friends & relatives.

U.S. politics functions on carrots and sticks. Asian Ams need to get with it. Obama ignores our legitimate grievance, so we must defeat his candidacy. Counting on you. Use your address book to do **your absolute best in spread this message NOW!**

Respectfully yours,

S.B. Woo

Member of the Exec. Comm, Founding President of the 80-20 Initiative.

Why Asian Ams Need to Defeat Sen. Obama's Candidacy

Sen. Obama gave almost farcical reasons why he would not reply to OUR questionnaire. The reasons given are

- 1) "He is black." Hence he has to be extra careful in matters dealing with the minorities to avoid the suspicion of the majority. So is Sen. Obama hoping to build his presidency on the backs of Asian Ams suffering unequal opportunity in workplaces?! How arrogant!
- 2) "When he is the president, an Asian American will have a better chance to be the president." Is it logical to talk about Asian Ams' chance to be the President when he is not even willing to assure us of equal opportunity in workplaces? How blind ambition deprives an inexperienced politician of logic?!
- 3) His staff is fond of saying that "Obama has a brother-in-law in Conrad Ng, and it'll be such a honor for Asian Americans if Obama gets into the White House ." Really? Did Obama select his brother-in-law or does

Sen. Obama think Asian Americans live in ancient feudal China?

Sen. Obama often intones the "fierce urgency of now," a quote from

Martin Luther King . However, he got it all wrong. Dr. King used the phrase to emphasize the urgency of equal opportunity for all Americans. Obama uses it to advance his candidacy while giving benign neglect to equal opportunity for Asian Ams and perhaps even African Americans.

Sen. Obama **too inexperienced** to be our presidency. He is not ready. He has yet to develop the character and courage to stand up for America's core value – equal opportunity.

Sen. Obama trivializes his "inexperience" by pointing to our youngest President, John F. Kennedy . How **wrong** Obama is. Kennedy served in the House and Senate for 14 years, from 1946 to 1960, before being elected the President. Obama has only 3 years' experience in national politics – one quarter the national experience of our **youngest** President – JFK .

The 6 questions that Sen. Obama refused to answer

(1) If elected, will you direct the Labor Secretary to hold public hearings regarding the validity of the huge amount of statistical data strongly suggesting discriminatory practices against Asian Americans in workplaces today? (Yes/No)

(2) If the data were shown valid, will you issue a directive to the Labor Department asking it to focus on enforcing Executive Order 11246 on behalf of Asian Americans, since in the past similar efforts have already been made on behalf of women and other minorities? (Yes/No)

(3) Two years after you have issued the directive described in item 2, will you meet with a group of Asian American national organizations, put together by 80-20 and the Labor Department, to review the progress in extending equal opportunity to Asian Americans? (Yes/No)

(4) If elected, will you within your first term of office, seek to increase the nomination of qualified Asian Americans to serve as Article III life-tenured federal judges, whenever such vacancies are available until the current dismal situation is significantly remedied? [To put things in perspective, not meaning to imply quota, presently there are 0.6 % Asian Am. Federal judges, while the Asian Am. population is 4.5 % and the % of Asian Am legal professionals in laws firms of 100 or large is at least 5.3 %.] (Yes/No)

(5) If elected, will you seek to nominate, within your first term of office, qualified Asian Americans to serve as Article III Circuit Judges, whenever there are vacancies in those positions, until the current dismal situation is significantly remedied? [To put things in perspective, none of the 179 Article III Circuit judges is an Asian American.] (Yes/No)

(6) If elected, will you consider nominating a qualified Asian America to the Supreme Court , when a vacancy occurs? Two years upon your taking the office, will you meet with a group of Asian American leaders, put together jointly by 80-20 and other Asian American national organizations to review the progress in adding Asian American Federal judges? (Yes/No)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Assemb. Linda Greenstein supports Barack (2007-12-27 12:11)

Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein (D-Monroe) of New Jersey announced her support for Barack Obama today.

"As a member of the Assembly and of the former New Jersey Citizens' Clean Elections Commission (2004-2006), I am particularly proud to work with Barack Obama. He has vowed to change politics as we know it, and I will stand with him to make that a reality."

Sen. Obama responded saying:

It is an honor to have Assemblywoman Greenstein on our team. She is a dedicated public servant who has proven she can reach across party lines and bring people together to get things done. She has worked hard to promote integrity in the election system and I am proud she will join us to transform our politics and bring change we can believe in. I look forward to working with Assemblywoman Greenstein to continue to build support for our campaign in New Jersey.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on 80-20 anti-Obama campaign (2007-12-27 16:51)

In response to the email sent out by the 80-20 Initiative today, an Asian American woman blogger at reappropriate.com, who also happens to volunteer for the Obama campaign, writes:

<http://www.reappropriate.com/?p=895>

Frankly, this email rubbed me the wrong way. The email is representative of the tone of the emails out of the 80/20 Initiative, that were deeply critical of Obama long before Obama had decided to (or not to) respond to 80/20's questionnaire.

Although earlier emails should have been objective towards Obama, they nonetheless emphasized the myth of Obama's inexperience and touted textbook Clinton attacks against Obama's candidacy. Moreover, 80/20 does not cite or provide a full text of the Obama campaign's response — and yet attacks those supposed responses with inflammatory rhetoric that might as well have been written by Clinton herself.

While I understand 80/20 choosing not to endorse Obama for not responding to their questionnaire, is it unnecessary and disingenuous to spread malicious rumours such as the ones quoted above, suggesting Obama is actively working against civil rights "for Asian Ams and perhaps even African Americans".

As I have said before, I think the mission statement of 80/20 is commendable, but their tactics have been questionable in the past, and have hit the point of downright despicable, now. Less than half of the Asian American community came out to vote in 2004: the last thing we need is a movement that disrespects the political process with slander and discourages Asian Americans from making an educated vote.

Finally, as an Obama volunteer, I was surprised to hear 80/20's cited responses out of the Obama for America campaign regarding their lack of response. Knowing Obama's campaign fairly well, it was disconcerting to think that the Obama campaign would actually respond to 80/20 with statements that Obama

need not respond because “he is black”. So, I requested a copy of the official response from 80/20, from which these quotes are being taken. After all, if Asian Americans are being expected to actually band together and try and defeat Obama, we deserve the full response.

However, my instinct is that these “quotes” are simply yet another instance of 80/20 hedging the facts to attack Obama’s candidacy: either paraphrases disguised as actual quotes or statements taken out of context.

I wrote to the Obama campaign last week with a request for further information regarding their decision not to respond to the 80/20 questionnaire (the comments of this post contain the text of my letter). Within a week, I received this response, which I am reproducing in full:

Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting Obama for America regarding the 80-20 Educational Foundation questionnaire and Barack Obama’s commitment to Asian Americans.

Barack Obama has worked to advance the interests of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) his entire life. Born in Hawaii, a majority AAPI state, spending part of his childhood in Indonesia, having Asian Americans in his multi-racial and multi-ethnic family, and working with the vibrant AAPI communities of Chicago, Obama understands the aspirations and needs of AAPIs. As president, Obama will work closely with AAPI leaders and advocate for the top priorities for AAPIs across the nation.

Barack Obama is committed to appointing qualified AAPIs to high-level positions in his administration, and he will strengthen the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Barack Obama will also build upon his work as a civil rights lawyer and community organizer to end racial discrimination and advance equal opportunity in the workplace and the federal government. Finally, as a former constitutional law lecturer, Obama understands the importance of a diverse judiciary and he is committed to increasing the representation of qualified minorities and women, including qualified Asian Americans, when there are vacancies in the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court.

We regret that our staff was unable to reach agreement with leadership of the 80-20 Educational Foundation over concerns with the wording of the questionnaire, despite the fact that modifications to the questionnaire were made for other campaigns.

The Obama campaign is proud of its efforts to reach out and engage the Asian American community by providing an official statement to the Asian American Action Fund (AAA Fund) (<http://www.aaa-fund.org/campaigns/president08/index.asp> #obama), participating in the Iowa Heartland Presidential Forum, creating an Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) National Leadership Council of key AAPI activists around the country to advise the campaign on AAPI outreach, and sending top campaign surrogates to appear at candidate forums sponsored by Asian Pacific Americans for Progress (APAP) and the AAA Fund. The Obama campaign is also the only major campaign to have a campaign-sponsored Asian Americans outreach webpage linked off of its main website. The Obama campaign is also proud of its endorsement by the AAA Fund of Greater Chicago.

Senator Obama looks forward to continuing his long record of advocacy for Asian Americans as president.

Sincerely,

Obama for America

First of all, I was very happy to see how rapidly I received a sincere, detailed letter from the campaign in response to my query. Despite the fact that the headquarters must be receiving thousands of letters like mine every day, I am happy to see that staff were still able to give me a response that addressed my concerns in such a timely fashion.

Secondly, I was extremely delighted to have Obama's campaign commit to the meat of 80/20's questionnaire: the appointment of qualified Asian Americans (and women!) to the cabinet and judgeships, when possible, as well as maintaining an open line of communication to key Asian American political leadership.

From the letter, it's clear that the problem was in the wording of the questionnaire. And if it's true that 80/20 was unwilling to make changes to the questionnaire for the Obama campaign, but was for other campaigns, than it suggests that 80/20 might have been looking to back a different candidate to begin with and was just seeking an excuse to go on the offensive.

In either case, comparing the correspondence I've got from both 80/20 and the Obama campaign, I think I'm going to have to continue my personal support for Senator Obama's candidacy. I think it's clear from the letter that an Obama presidency would be extremely friendly towards APIA issues, and that Obama maintains a high commitment towards our sociopolitical causes, even when his campaign is unwilling to be bullied into pandering.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Stand for Change Tour on Fri. & Sat. (2007-12-27 20:45)

I'm posting events for the "Stand for Change" tour over the next few days featuring both Barack and Michelle Obama in Iowa.

Mills County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 9:15 AM

Mills County YMCA New Gym (Glenwood, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Glenwood where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Williamsburg (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 9:45 AM

Mary Welsh Elementary School Gymnasium (Williamsburg, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Williamsburg where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Harrison County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event with Barack Obama)

Friday, December 28 at 11:15 AM

Rand Senior Center (Missouri Valley, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Missouri Valley where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Coralville (Johnson County)
(Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 12:00 PM

Northwest Junior High School (Coralville, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Coralville (Johnson County) where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Pottawattamie County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 1:15 PM

A.H.S.T High School (Avoca, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Avoca where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing the kind of change we can believe...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Cass County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 3:15 PM

Cass County Community Center (Atlantic, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Atlantic where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)

- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Clinton (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 4:00 PM

Washington Middle School (Clinton, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Clinton where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Davenport (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 6:30 PM

RiverCenter (Davenport, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Davenport where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Precinct Team Training (Organizing)

Friday, December 28 at 7:00 PM

Panera Bread (Cedar Rapids, IA)

Please join us for our final precinct team training at Panera on Edgewood Road. We will go over each team position on caucus night,...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Muscatine (Official Event)

Friday, December 28 at 9:00 PM

Central Middle School Gymnasium (Muscatine, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Muscatine where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Burlington (Official Event)

Saturday, December 29 at 9:45 AM

Pzazz Convention Center and Event Center (Burlington, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Burlington where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Fort Madison (Official Event)

Saturday, December 29 at 11:45 AM

Fort Madison High School Cafeteria (Fort Madison, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Fort Madison where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Keokuk (Official Event)

Saturday, December 29 at 2:45 PM

Hawthorne Elementary School Gymnasium (Keokuk, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Keokuk where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Meet actors Brandon Routh and Kal Penn in Norwalk! (Meeting)

Saturday, December 29 at 4:00 PM

Cal's II (Norwalk, IA)

Come meet Kal Penn from Harold and Kumar, The Namesake, and House and Norwalk native Brandon Routh from Superman Returns at Cal's II in Norwalk! We'll...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Our Moment Is Now: Meet Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. in Des Moines (Meeting)

Saturday, December 29 at 5:00 PM

Something Good Restaurant (Des Moines, IA)

Come meet Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. as he talks about why Barack Obama is the right person to lead the country right now.

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Mount Pleasant (Official Event)

Saturday, December 29 at 5:15 PM

Mount Pleasant Community High School Commons (Mount Pleasant, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Mount Pleasant where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Our Moment Is Now: Meet Dr. C.T. Vivian in Waterloo (Meeting)

Saturday, December 29 at 7:00 PM

Ambassadors for Christ Church (Waterloo, IA)

Come meet Civil Rights Legend Dr. C.T. Vivian this Saturday at Ambassadors for Christ Church in Waterloo. Dr. Vivian will talk about why Senator Obama is...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

CHANGE ROCKS! (Organizing)

Saturday, December 29 at 8:00 PM

VAL AIR BALLROOM (West Des Moines, IA)

Obama for America Presents CHANGE ROCKS India Arie Performing With Special Guests Kal Penn & Brandon Roth Free and open to the public Ages 17 and up - no tickets...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Ottumwa (Official Event)

Saturday, December 29 at 8:15 PM

Ottumwa High School Old Gymnasium (Ottumwa, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Ottumwa where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Marshalltown UAW endorses Barack Obama (2007-12-28 09:29)

Local #893 announced its support of Barack Obama for president following the recommendations of Region 4 conference in Dubuque last month.

"The Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs have been in charge for too long. This week, here in Iowa, their desperate attempt to control the political process is all over our televisions," Dennis Stewart, president of UAW Local #893 said. "Now more than ever before, working families know Barack Obama is the only candidate in this race who's not getting any help in Iowa from Washington lobbyists, special interest PACs, or the shadowy outside organizations known as 527s. That's why working families can trust Barack to change Washington, tell the truth and win in 2008."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama: Real Leadership for Seniors (2007-12-28 10:06)

Check out this great video from the Obama campaign on senior issues such as Social Security and health care. [EMBED]

Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Getting People to Caucus (2007-12-28 10:35)

Forget the polls, the big thing on Jan. 3 will be the candidate able to get supporters out to their caucus meetings. A lot of different factors come into play here including the weather and the demographic breakdown of the candidate's supporters in terms of age, voting frequency, etc.

For someone like Barack Obama with many young people as supporters, the last days of the campaign are very important. A young college student often wonders how to fill up their gas tank if they have a car at all. Someone who has had a hard day at work might think that their single vote doesn't matter than much anyway and decide to skip the meeting and go straight home.

There are some creative ways to get people out to caucus. They include student carpools, free volunteer taxi services, after-parties for young voters , etc.

College students are always looking for free munchies and the chance to meet other young people so parties are a good strategy in college towns.

Many people, especially first-time and infrequent voters, may simply forget the date or time of the caucus. This is where the campaign ground effort comes in, especially the phone banks. They need to remind supporters to show up at the caucus meeting on time.

In the end, it is often the campaign with the best ground organization that ends up winning the Iowa caucus.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

New TV ads (2007-12-28 16:10)

The Obama campaign has released two new television ads, one for Iowa called "Listening," and the other, "Unity" for New Hampshire.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad backs Obama (2007-12-29 09:41)

Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota endorsed Barack Obama today.

"I've worked with all of the presidential candidates, both those who have served in the Senate and those who are in other positions, including Gov. (Bill) Richardson, whom I have enormous respect for," Conrad said. "What draws me to Sen Obama and his candidacy is the ability he has shown to bring people together, to unite people around a common cause. And I think that's so needed right now. He also has the ability to lift people, to inspire them."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

barackobama.com has new look (2007-12-29 09:45)

The campaign has completely redone the front page and modified other parts of the barackobama.com website particularly to make it easier to find information fast. Here's a peek at the new site:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Nathan Gonzalez: 'Why I'm supporting Barack Obama' (2007-12-29 12:52)

Nathan Gonzalez, founder of NationandState.org and author of Engaging Iran: The Rise of a Middle East Powerhouse and America's Strategic Choice tells why he is supporting Barack Obama over at The Huffington Post.

Marcus Tullius Cicero, the great Roman politician and fearless opponent of dictatorship, warned us against leaders who, in "their admiration for shrewd and clever men, take craftiness for wisdom." In his ultimate how-to manual for governing, called On Duties, Cicero told us what we should already know: That morality and judgment are not an impediment to success, but a key to it. That is why I am supporting Barack

Obama for president.

In the last seven years, we have seen our constitution torn to shreds before our eyes. The writ of habeas corpus, once the cornerstone of our legal system, has been suspended on behalf of a war effort with no focus or end in sight. We have reached the limits of Orwellian speech, with a president speaking of a "war on terror," "victory in Iraq," and "you are either with us or you are with the terrorists."

[...]

Cicero told us that morals need not be separated from expediency and success. In Barack Obama, we have a candidate who will not only bring about a needed change of course, but in the process will show respect toward the vast and diverse political fabric of America. He will take on the task of governing with the kind of dignity we should expect of our elected leaders. Obama can win next November, and as Cicero would say, he can do so with honor. That is why I'm voting for Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Events in Iowa on Sun. & Mon. (2007-12-29 19:58)

Carroll County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 9:45 AM

Coffee World (Carroll, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Carroll where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Knoxville (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 11:15 AM

Knoxville Middle School Auditorium (Knoxville, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Knoxville where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Crawford County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 11:30 AM

Donna Reed Center for the Performing Arts (Denison, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Denison where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Monona County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 1:45 PM

Mapleton Community Center (Mapleton, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Mapleton where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Newton (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 2:30 PM

Newton Senior High School (Newton, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Newton where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Indianola with Brandon Routh (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 5:15 PM

United Methodist Church (Indianola, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Indianola where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Des Moines Women's Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 5:15 PM

Grounds for Celebration (Des Moines, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Des Moines where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in the South Side of Des Moines (Official Event)

Sunday, December 30 at 7:30 PM

Nathan Weeks Middle School Gymnasium (Des Moines, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in the South Side of Des Moines where he'll talk about his vision for...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Perry (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 9:30 AM

McCreary Community Building (Perry, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Perry where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Jefferson (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 12:00 PM

Jefferson High School Gymnasium (Jefferson, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Jefferson where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Marshall County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 12:30 PM

Iowa Veterans Home (Marshalltown, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Marshalltown where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Meet and Greet with Michelle Obama (Meeting)

Monday, December 31 at 3:00 PM

Carman Center (Grinnell, IA)

Meet Sen. Obama's wife, Michelle Obama. She will speak about Barack's plans to bring change we can believe in to the White House, and...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Boone (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 3:00 PM

Boone County Fairgrounds Community Room (Boone, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Boone where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Poweshiek County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 3:00 PM

The Mayflower (Grinnell, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Grinnell where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Meet Michelle Obama In Bedford (Meeting)

Monday, December 31 at 4:00 PM

Bedford Country Club (Bedford, IA)

Come meet Senator Obama's wife, Michelle! Doors open early at 3:30.

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Marion County Event with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 5:15 PM

Home of Theresa and Timothy Crumley (Pella, IA)

Please join Michelle Obama at a campaign event in Pella where she'll talk about Barack's vision for bringing to Washington, DC the kind of change...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Barack Obama's 'Stand for Change' Tour Stops in Iowa Falls (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 6:00 PM

Iowa Falls Alden High School - Student Center (Iowa Falls, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a 'Stand for Change' Tour stop in Iowa Falls where he'll talk about his vision for bringing the kind of...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Caucus: Jackson Township: Jackson Township Fire Department (Iowa Caucus)

Monday, December 31 at 6:30 PM

Jackson Township Fire Department (Keokuk, IA)

This is the official RSVP to let us know that you plan on attending your neighborhood Caucus on January 3rd. We need to Caucus...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Kal Penn and Acoustic Music by Conor Oberst (Organizing)

Monday, December 31 at 6:30 PM

Carroll Bowl (East Carroll, IA)

Join Kal Penn for an event with acoustic music by Conor Oberst.

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

New Year's Eve Event with Barack Obama in Ames (Official Event)

Monday, December 31 at 8:30 PM

Iowa State University Memorial Union (Ames, IA)

Please join Barack Obama for a campaign event in Ames where he'll discuss his vision for bringing the kind of change we can believe in...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Danny Davis: Why I'm Supporting Barack Obama (2007-12-30 08:31)

Illinois Dem. Rep. Danny Davis wrote a posting on the The Hill's Congress Blog on why he's supporting Barack Obama. Here's the full text of the article:

The experts who study such things tell us that endorsements really don't make much difference when citizens make up their minds on who to vote for. So why am I working so hard for Barack Obama?

Two reasons. First, in my judgement, our country has suffered so much during the Presidency of George W. Bush. We embarked on a war and subsequent occupation of Iraq based on mistaken or falsified intelligence. The war has been horribly planned and mismanaged and the cost in lives lost, in resources squandered, in reducing our national security, in compromise of our principles and our constitution rights and liberties, in loss of our standing in the world, has been unacceptable. While our economy has grown the vast majority of American have not participated in the benefits, with wages stagnating, fewer Americans with health insurance, more children in poverty. The bursting of the housing bubble (a failure of our regulatory system) and high gas prices have placed our communities in real crisis and families in real hardship.

Our government has taken to eavesdropping on us, censoring the work of our scientists on climate change, failing to protect our children against dangerous imported products. The 2000 and the 2004 elections have raised serious questions about the integrity of our election systems which remain unanswered. Because the issues are so large, and the consequences so great, I have been moved to try and involve the

maximum number of voters in this primary season because I believe that is the only way we can achieve real change.

Second, because I have had the opportunity to know and work with Barack since he moved to Chicago, I feel I have some special experiences to share with voters. Barack comes to politics with a background and a deep commitment to empowering people through organization. It was as a community organizer, pulling people together for their common interests, that Barack first found his voice as a leader. I know Barack has carried that commitment to the way he practices politics. I know that commitment was reflected in the legislation that he got passed in the state legislature and more recently in the United States Senate. I have seen that same commitment in the campaign he has run for President.

I won't try and summarize Barack's platform here. He has a great website where those ideas are laid out in detail. What I can say is how excited and pleased I have been about caliber of young people his campaign has attracted. I believe his campaign is renewing politics, renewing hope, renewing dialog and renewing participation in this great democracy. I hope you will have an opportunity to visit an Obama volunteer headquarters and see for yourself. If you like what you see I hope you will join me in trying to maximize participation in the 2008 elections . . . and making a real change in our politics and policies by supporting Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Times-Republican: Obama brings message of hope, change (2007-12-30 11:32)



Obama brings message of hope, change

Open the doors and let the American people in.

With a philosophy of openness - from education to the economy, government to military actions - Barack Obama has based his message of hope and change on the belief that Americans want to be involved in their government.

We couldn't agree more.

In an age where closed doors, secret military posts and middle-of-the-night pork barrel votes are all too common, Obama believes we can still come together as a country, we can work together to build a better America.

It's true, his experience in running a country may not be as lengthy as that of his opponents, but perhaps that is a good thing.

Too many of the candidates already have too much "experience" in our eyes - too much "experience" manipulating the system, too much "experience" bowing to special interests and too much "exp-erience" during a previous White House stint.

Obama has what we would call more "down to earth" experience: helping in his community working as a civil rights activist, and, of course, his time in the Illinois State Senate.

The argument has also been made that Obama lacks experience dealing with foreign policy and foreign leaders. Perhaps that "lack of experience" will translate into some bold, decisive actions that actually deal with foreign issues, rather than the typical "nod and smile" philosophy.

And while many Democratic candidates have called for an immediate troop withdrawal in Iraq, Obama understands that such action would be detrimental to foreign relations, the people of Iraq and our own troops. Instead, he proposes a controlled and responsible withdrawal from Iraq that would take a couple of years to properly complete. Obama also understands that a universal healthcare plan must be practical and achievable, not a pipe dream used only to gain momentum on the campaign trail. His plan doesn't ram a national health insurance program down our throats, rather it merely guarantees access to health insurance for all Americans.

His common sense approach carries through to other issues as well: a sensible energy plan that helps reduce environmental impacts without shutting off everyone's electricity and a teacher pay program that rewards those who work hard to teach our children and doesn't reward those who don't.

Obama offers a new path, one filled with hope and change. We think it's a path worth traveling down.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



'You've Got the Power' (2007-12-30 14:36)

Check out this new YouTube video I made called "You've got the Power," meaning to bring about change by taking action.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Game Time (2007-12-31 08:14)

I've said all along that elections often come down to the last four days including election day.

We're at that point now. While there's still room to persuade undecided last-minute voters especially those for whom the Iraq War is the major issue, much of the effort now shifts to get out the vote, or rather get out the caucus. The Obama campaign has to concentrate on reminding and organizing those people who already support their candidate to arrive at their caucus locations on time at 6:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 3. If they get there late, they will not be able to participate.

Obviously with a lot of young, first-timers supporting Obama this can be a challenge, but the big crowds showing up at Barack's events are a good sign. Indeed many Iowa veterans consider the size of crowds at stumping stops during this phase of the campaign more reliable than opinion polls.

Last night, about 1,000 people showed up at Obama's Stand for Change stop in Des Moines.

[EMBED]



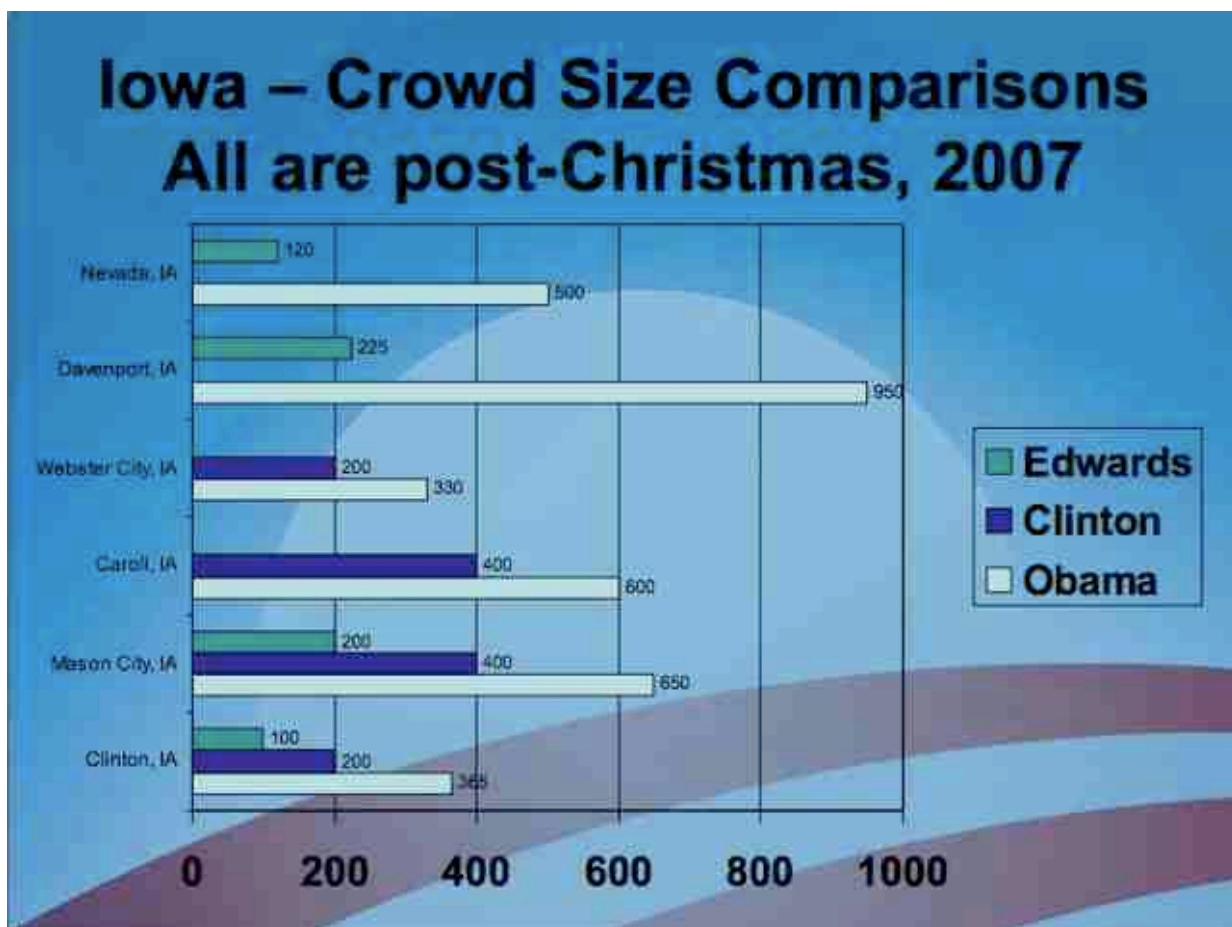
Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

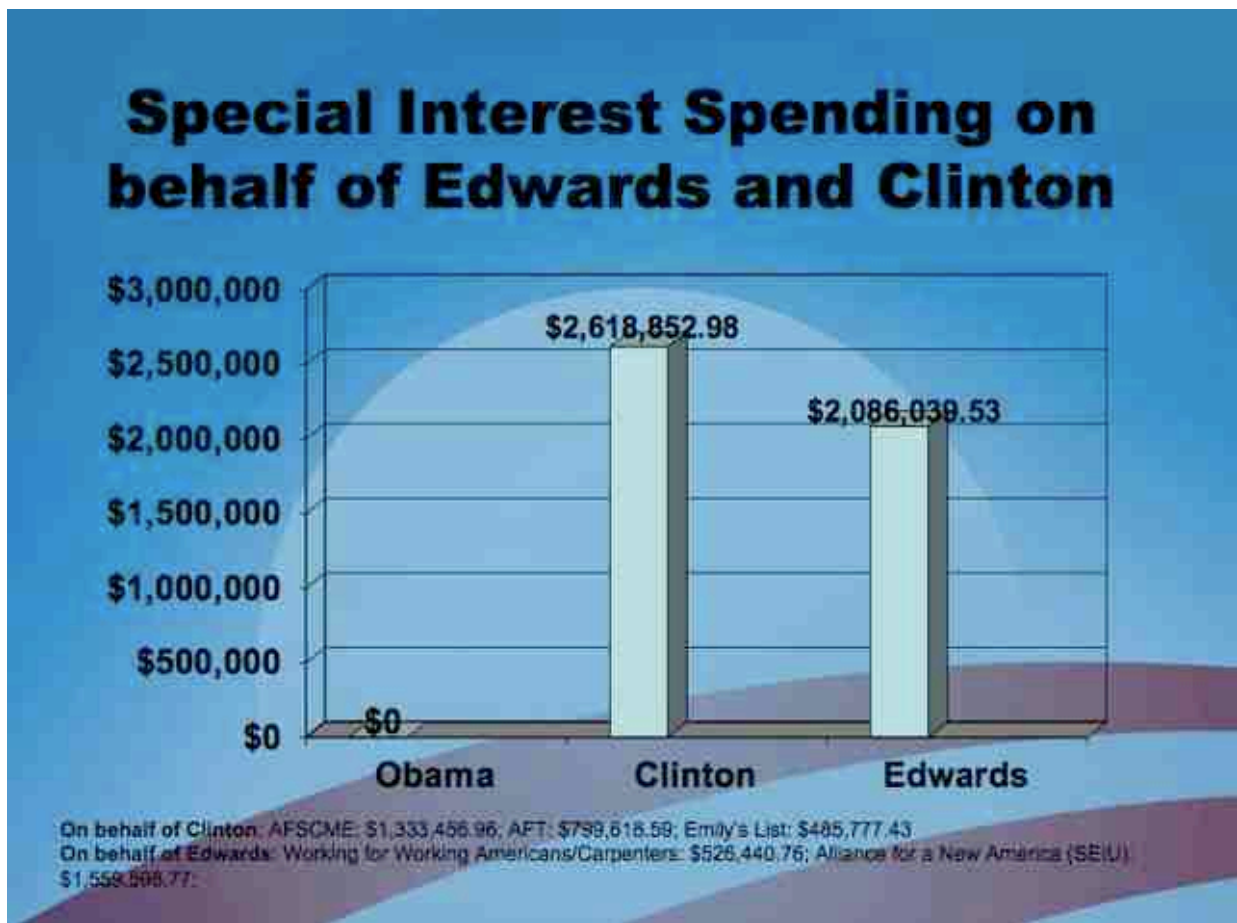
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Crowd size vs. Special Interest cash (2007-12-31 10:15)

Sam Graham-Felsen published some graphs produced by David Plouffe on barackobama.com showing that despite massive influx of outside money into Iowa for Hillary Clinton and John Edwards, the largest crowds still gather for Barack Obama. Check out all the special interest money coming in from outside to influence the Iowa caucuses.





Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack on Ending the War in Iraq (2007-12-31 11:25)

From barackobama.com:

Ending the War in Iraq

- **Judgment You Can Trust:** As a candidate for the United States Senate in 2002, Obama put his political career on the line to oppose going to war in Iraq, and warned of “an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs, and undetermined consequences.” Obama has been a consistent, principled and vocal opponent of the war in Iraq:
 1. In 2003 and 2004, he spoke out against the war on the campaign trail;
 2. In 2005, he called for a phased withdrawal of our troops;
 3. In 2006, he called for a timetable to remove our troops, a political solution within Iraq, and aggressive diplomacy with all of Iraqi neighbors;
 4. In January 2007, he introduced legislation in the Senate to remove all of our combat troops from Iraq by March 2008.

5. In September 2007, he laid out a detailed plan for how he will end the war as president.

- **Bring Our Troops Home:** Obama will immediately begin to remove our troops from Iraq. He will remove one to two combat brigades each month, and have all of our combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months. Obama will make it clear that we will not build any permanent bases in Iraq. He will keep some troops in Iraq to protect our embassy and diplomats; if al Qaeda attempts to build a base within Iraq, he will keep troops in Iraq or elsewhere in the region to carry out targeted strikes on al Qaeda.
- **Press Iraqi leaders to reconcile:** The best way to press Iraqi leaders to take responsibility for their future is to make it clear that we are leaving. As we remove our troops, Obama will engage representatives from all levels of Iraqi society – in and out of government – to seek a new accord on Iraqi Constitution and governance. The United Nations will play a central role in this convention, which should not adjourn until a new national accord is reached addressing tough questions like federalism and oil revenue-sharing.
- **Regional Diplomacy:** Obama will launch the most aggressive diplomatic effort in recent American history to reach a new compact on the stability of Iraq and the Middle East. This effort will include all of Iraqi neighbors – including Iran and Syria. This compact will aim to secure Iraqi borders; keep neighboring countries from meddling inside Iraq; isolate al Qaeda; support reconciliation among Iraqi sectarian groups; and provide financial support for Iraqi reconstruction.
- **Humanitarian Initiative:** Obama believes that America has a moral and security responsibility to confront Iraqi humanitarian crisis – two million Iraqis are refugees; two million more are displaced inside their own country. Obama will form an international working group to address this crisis. He will provide at least \$2 billion to expand services to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries, and ensure that Iraqis inside their own country can find a safe-haven.

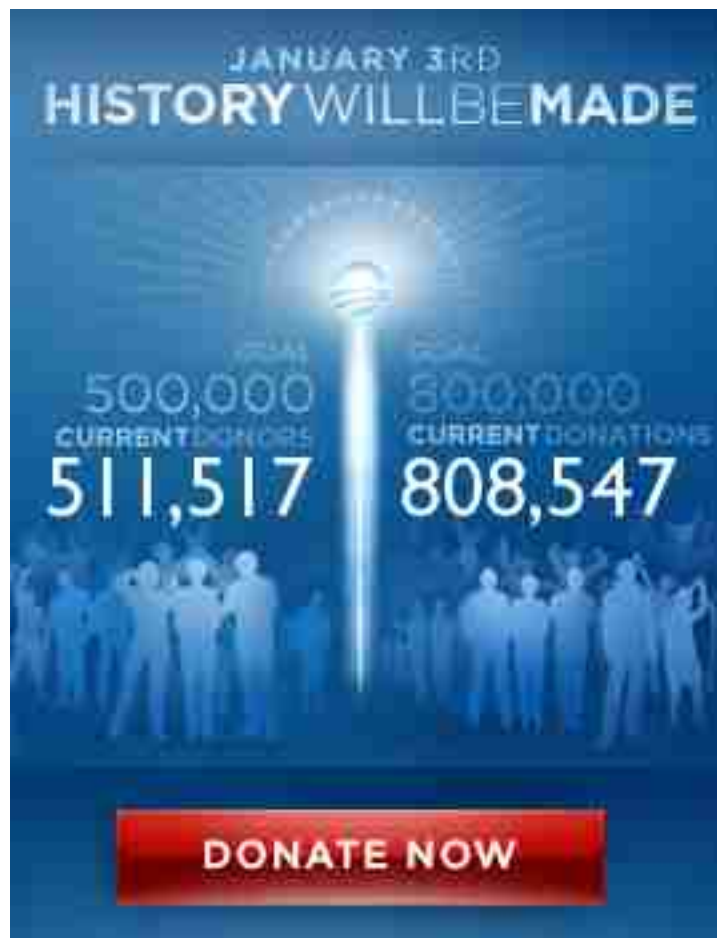
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Michelle Obama: 'Let's do this Right' (2007-12-31 16:32)

Michelle Obama sent out this email request today.

Paul –



I'm here on the ground in Iowa with Barack, our daughters, his sisters, and thousands of supporters and volunteers.

The energy is contagious, and we all have the sense that we're on the verge of something incredible.

We're seeing crowds two or three times the size our opponents are attracting. We're bringing new people into the process and bringing back some of those who are fed up with politics-as-usual.

And no matter where you are, you can make a dramatic statement that could shake this race up over the next few days before the caucuses on January 3rd.

At midnight tonight, the staff will shut the books on the 4th quarter and report just how much financial support we've received from people across the country.

The news will shape this race heading into the Iowa caucuses on Thursday.

Each one of these financial reporting periods has been an important moment for our movement – each report has shown in black and white that this is a different kind of campaign, funded by an unprecedented number of people.

Thank you for your support. We would not be in the position we are today if it were not for you. I know you have already done so much, but I need to ask you to do more.

If you make a donation today, it will be matched by a first-time donor. You'll double your impact by encouraging someone else to own a piece of this campaign. And that's what this is all about, bringing people together, recognizing that there's so much more that unites us than divides.

Make a matched donation of \$25 and help a new supporter be a part of this historic moment:
<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

We started this campaign back in February, which seems like a lifetime ago.

But the Iowa caucuses this Thursday are just the beginning.

Unfortunately, our opponents are still playing the same old Washington games and benefiting from millions of dollars pouring into Iowa from outside groups. These "independent" organizations are running attack ads and sending mailings that distort Barack's record.

From the beginning, we have refused to play this game.

We're determined to win by doing this the right way.

Our campaign is built on the support of ordinary people giving only what they can afford. We've never taken money from Washington lobbyists or PACs. Instead, we've put our faith in you, and you've built a grassroots movement of nearly 500,000 individual donors.

That's the equivalent of 1 out of every 300 registered voters in the country giving \$5 or more to our campaign.

You can be part of this historic effort and set the stage for Iowa by making a donation before midnight tonight. We need your help to create the momentum that will carry our movement through these crucial early contests and to the nomination.

Donate \$25 today and it will be matched by another supporter: <https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

When Iowans walk into their local precincts this Thursday, they'll be representing you and every other supporter across the country.

Let them know just how many of us are behind them – show them they are far from alone.

Thank you, and Happy New Year from our family to yours,

Michelle



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack tops last Des Moines Register poll (2007-12-31 20:09)

Barack Obama topped the Des Moines Register's last poll of the season considered one of the most accurate election surveys.

Barack was the choice of 32 percent of those surveyed compared to 25 percent for Hillary Clinton and 24 percent for John Edwards.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack tops last Des Moines Register poll (2007-12-31 20:09)

Barack Obama topped the Des Moines Register's last poll of the season considered one of the most accurate election surveys.

Barack was the choice of 32 percent of those surveyed compared to 25 percent for Hillary Clinton and

2. 2008

2.1 January

A New Year and a day closer (2008-01-01 09:34)

Supporters of Barack Obama have good reason to be happy this new year's day, two days before the Iowa caucus. Although it's not over till the butter cow lady sings, Obama drew a big crowd of 1,000 in Ames last night, and topped the important Des Moines Register poll. He is again the candidate with the all-important momentum. What's left now is execution, getting his young first-time supporters to the caucus on time.

Ames Rally attracts 1,000

[EMBED]



Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dennis Kucinich: Pick Obama as second choice (2008-01-01 14:25)

Marc Ambinder from theatlantic.com reports that Dennis Kucinich asked his supporters last night to select Barack Obama as their second choice in the Iowa caucus.

Here is a copy of the Kucinich campaign press release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 01, 2008

DES MOINES, IA – Democratic Presidential candidate and Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich opened the New Year by publicly asking his Iowa supporters to vote for him in the caucuses this Thursday, and suggesting that if he did not make the 15 % threshold, their second ballot should be for Senator Barack Obama. "This is obviously an 'Iowa-only' recommendation, as Sen. Obama and I are competing in the New Hampshire primary next Tuesday where I want to be the first choice of New Hampshire voters.

"I hope Iowans will caucus for me as their first choice this Thursday, because of my singular positions on the war, on health care, and trade. This is an opportunity for people to stand up for themselves. But in those caucus locations where my support doesn't reach the necessary threshold, I strongly encourage all of my supporters to make Barack Obama their second choice. Sen. Obama and I have one thing in common: Change."



Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Dennis Kucinich: Pick Obama as second choice (2008-01-01 14:25)

Marc Ambinder from atla

Two online polls (2008-01-01 20:48)

The Obama campaign is putting out a call for online supporters to vote in two polls, one at MySpace.com and the other at TechCrunch.com:

Vote Today in the MySpace New Year's Primary Poll at <http://impact.myspace.com> (Poll closes at 11:59pm January 2, 2008).

**Vote for Barack in the
MySpace Online Primary**



OBAMA'08

Polls open at 3:01am EST
Tuesday, January 1
Polls close at 11:59 pm EST
Wednesday, January 2

Vote at MySpace Impact Channel
<http://impact.myspace.com>



You can also vote in TechCrunch's online Primary at Primaries.TechCrunch.com/democratic



Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Barack's email today (2008-01-02 09:53)

Barack Obama sent out an email today that highlights the campaign's infrastructure in the early states including the Super Tuesday states.

It's been an inspiring journey so far, but tomorrow night in Iowa the action really begins.

Our journey will continue through more than 20 other states in a little over a month.

But first, I wanted you to see this video showing where we've been:



<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

We're still just shy of our goal of 500,000 people owning a piece of this campaign. You've already given, but if you promise to match the donation of someone who hasn't given yet, you could bring in the person who puts us over the top.

Make a donation of \$25 now and help us get there:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

The half a million people like you who've donated to this campaign have allowed us to build an unparalleled organization across the country.

Our campaign manager, David Plouffe, put together some numbers this week that show the strength of what this movement has created in the first four states and beyond:

- **Iowa : January 3rd** – We have more field offices (37), more field staffers (over 200), and more volunteers than any other campaign. According to the final Des Moines Register poll before the caucuses, the strength of our lead comes from "a dramatic influx of first-time caucusgoers, including a sizable bloc of political independents."
- **New Hampshire : January 8th** – The largest field operation in the state has made nearly 1.6 million phone calls and knocked on 330,000 doors. Our campaign has been endorsed by both Democratic US Representatives, Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter , and the latest Boston Globe/University of New Hampshire poll puts us in the lead.
- **Nevada : January 19th** – We have the biggest organization with 11 field offices and more than 50 staff; we're gaining strength every day.
- **South Carolina : January 26th** – Former Democratic chairman Donald Fowler praised our 55 staff members in 11 offices for running "the most methodical voter-canvassing project I have ever seen in South Carolina ."

- **22 other states: February 5th** – We have 32 offices open in 17 states, including states like Alaska , Utah , and Alabama where we're the only campaign up and running with a serious organization.

We're fired up here in Iowa , and nearly half a million people all across the country who own a piece of this campaign are ready to go.

Take a moment to watch this video about where we've been, and make a donation now to get us where we're going:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

Thank you,

Barack

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

"Major" South Carolina announcement expected soon (2008-01-02 10:18)

The Obama campaign is expected to make a 'major announcement' this afternoon at the University of South Carolina campus.

For days now, there have been rumors circulating that Obama had scored a major South Carolina endorsement. We should find out if that is indeed the announcement within a few hours.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Iowa Caucus Step by Step (2008-01-02 11:02)

BarackObama.com has an easy step-by-step guide for the caucus process in Iowa. Click "Next" on the graphic below to view the tutorial.

[EMBED]

You can also get more info in the Caucus Center webpage.



Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Obama wins Coffee Bean Caucus in Iowa City (2008-01-02 14:45)

Barack Obama won the Hamburg Inn's Coffee Bean Caucus in Iowa City.

The Coffee Bean Caucus was featured on TV's "The West Wing" in 2005. Results were announced this morning on a live CNN broadcast from the Hamburg Inn.

Obama had nearly a two to one lead over second place Democrat Hillary Clinton, who in turn held nearly a two to one lead over Edwards.

From the Iowa Independent:

John Deeth :: Obama, Paul win Coffee Bean Caucus

Democratic Republican

Barack Obama 1733 Ron Paul 132

Hillary Clinton 830 Mitt Romney 87

John Edwards 445 Rudy Guiliani 71

Dennis Kucinich 291 Mike Huckabee 70

Bill Richardson 276 John McCain 46

Joe Biden 176 Fred Thompson 46

Mike Gravel 0 Duncan Hunter 5

Green Party Cynthia McKinney 36 Undecided 215

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Final Iowa Ad: Leader (2008-01-02 17:18)

Check out Barack Obama's closing argument, "Leader," a television ad to air across Iowa tonight.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Time is Now (2008-01-03 09:13)

Our time is now. That's more than a slogan in Iowa today where caucuses begin at 6:30 pm this evening.

The Obama campaign has left no stone unturned. If they do not win, it will not be because they made the mistakes of Howard Dean. The campaign has 33 offices across the state and organized massive rallies, canvassing and phone-banking.

Obama's crowds have been bigger than those of his opponents. Last night, more than 2,000 people rallied with Barack in Des Moines.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbQNkWFUKfc>

Despite harsh weather big crowds have turned out since Christmas, and with the weather relatively mild today, there's no reason to think Obama supporters will not show up.

Of course, one can't count out the Illinois senator's seasoned opponents. The campaign still has to close the show with a final get out the vote effort.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Request from Michelle (2008-01-03 09:40)

Michelle Obama sent out an email appeal today with the campaign goal of 500,000 donors well with reach by caucus time tonight.

This morning in Iowa, your fellow supporters are calling their neighbors and asking them if they need someone to baby-sit while they caucus tonight.

They're asking if they need directions to their caucus locations, or even a ride.

This process has been a real human experience – there's a strong community and generosity of spirit that's emerged here among Barack's supporters. It's a feeling that's bigger than the excitement of a typical political campaign. It's the feeling of a movement.

And that movement isn't just here in Iowa. It's in the three other early-states, and in every state in the country, as shown by the record number of people getting involved.

We're just a few thousand donors shy of reaching 500,000 people owning a piece of this campaign. Make your first donation of \$25 now and your gift will be matched by a previous donor. Be part of this historic moment:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

That potential to revive that feeling of community and connection is why Barack and I decided to do this.

We knew there was an opportunity to change politics, to make it about hope and a shared passion for our common future. And we knew that other people who feel the same way would come back into the process or decide to participate for the first time.

We're closer to something historic than anyone ever imagined we could be.

It's the culmination of talking and listening and building the kind of organization that engages people. It's the product of a whole lot of hard work and consistent effort over the last year.

The Iowa caucuses begin at 6:30 tonight, and we only need a couple thousand more donors to reach our goal. Show your fellow supporters in Iowa just how many of us are with them tonight.

Make a \$25 donation now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

Years ago, after we first met, Barack took me to an organizing meeting in a small church basement in Chicago.

I saw then that he had an extraordinary capacity to bring people together in pursuit of change – to make them believe against all odds in something bigger than themselves and inspire them to work to achieve it.

That's what's happening here in Iowa and all across the country.

I can't tell you how proud I am of him, and of you, for being a part of this.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Documentary: Hope for Change (2008-01-03 10:46)

Curtis M. Faith and his independent film crew spent three months on the ground in New Hampshire, New York City, South Carolina and Iowa filming from August to October 2007 filming the Obama campaign.

They have produced a nine part, 68 minute documentary "Hope for Change." Check it out.

<http://thestatewerein.blip.tv/>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Richardson endorsing Obama? (2008-01-03 12:36)

Gov. Bill Richardson will instruct his followers to vote for Barack Obama as second choice according to Chase Martyn of the Iowa Independent.

Two sources familiar with the plan told Iowa Independent that the New Mexico Governor's organizers have been instructed to direct supporters to Obama in the places where they fail to reach the 15 % threshold for viability.

Richardson, whose poll numbers in Iowa have hovered near 10 % since June, may need a solid fourth-place finish in the caucuses to continue his campaign. And he is best served by directing support away from former Sen. John Edwards, who consistently polls between him and the two national front-runners, Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton, in national and early state polls.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

It's about time... (2008-01-03 15:28)

For lowans to start mossaing down to their caucus locations to arrive before 6:30 pm.
I'll be at a caucus-watching party at the Obama headquarters in Sacramento, California.
Notice below that the campaign reached the 500,000 donation mark!



Early States Election Schedule Iowa Caucus – Jan. 3 New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Impact of Iowa (2008-01-03 22:05)

If you haven't heard yet, Sen. Barack Obama scored a resounding victory in Iowa tonight. The win is like an endorsement from an entire state. Many undecided voters around the country may take a closer look at Obama now. Those who liked Obama but didn't think he could win, may now have their doubts dispelled. Things will start to fall in line for Obama because a lot of big players will want to be with whoever appears to be winning at the moment. With only five days until the New Hampshire primary, Obama's opponents will have to work hard to undercut the perception that Barack is the candidate to beat. For Obama supporters, it's time to relish a hard-won victory, but they don't have much time to relax. Barack and probably Michelle will be right back to stumping by tomorrow. Right now, the primary looks like a referendum on change with Barack as champion of the cause.

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dChb2t3zEGg>

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krN1thQlvJ4>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



chris wilcox (2008-01-03 22:41:00)

Woohoo! Great night in Iowa. Thanks for your help Obama Blog!

Anonymous (2008-01-04 12:07:00)

Obama city...

<http://sergica.miniville.fr/env/>

Barack Obama's Acceptance Speech (2008-01-04 01:02)

Check out Barack Obama's extraordinary acceptance speech.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



CresceNet (2008-01-04 05:08:00)

Gostei muito desse post e seu blog é muito interessante, vou passar por aqui sempre =) Depois dá uma passada lá no meu site, que é sobre o CresceNet, espero que goste. O endereço dele é <http://www.provedorcrescenet.com> . Um abraço.

Truth is my Country (2008-01-04 12:53:00)

Charisma is an important characteristic if someone is really going to bring about change in American politics; Obama is certainly a charismatic and persuasive speaker, the first politician I've seen in my lifetime who I feel could inspire a wide range of people to come together to solve the nation's problems.

Mayor and Former Gov. Wilder endorses Obama (2008-01-04 16:41)

Richmond Mayor and former Virginia Governor Doug Wilder endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today. Wilder said he would campaign for Obama in Nevada and South Carolina but will not make a trip to New Hampshire. He said he was contacting the campaign to arrange events in the early states.



Mayor Doug Wilder

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



dgeorge (2008-01-05 11:51:00)

Hey, just wanted to share a video I made in the wake of Obama's Iowa victory,
take care,

Danny George

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2G2BzzBJXc>

Independence (2008-01-04 18:56)

The Obama campaign will begin airing a new television ad in New Hampshire called "Independence." It starts off with Obama's victory speech in Iowa and highlights his endorsements from New Hampshire newspapers.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Iowa Caucus Party @ Sacramento Obama Headquarters (2008-01-04 19:56)

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Major Wisconsin endorsement expected (2008-01-05 09:07)

According to Obama campaign manager David Plouffe there will be a major endorsement announced today in Wisconsin.

There is some speculation that it may be Gov. Jim Doyle, whose son Gus Doyle heads the UW-Madison chapter of Students for Barack Obama.

Early States Election Schedule

New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



2,500 rally at Nashua, New Hampshire (2008-01-05 11:20)

A massive crowd estimated at between 2,500 and 3,000 people overflowed the Obama rally at the Nashua North High School today in New Hampshire. Check out the pictures.







Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama News on Sunday (2008-01-06 10:10)

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle endorsed Sen. Barack Obama yesterday, and today, former senator Bill Bradley announced his support for Obama.

A group of nine prominent New Hampshire supporters of Joe Biden and Chris Dodd, who have withdrawn from the race, have also endorsed Obama. Here's the list of new endorsements:

Dan Calegari, Deerfield – *Former NH Field Director for Gary Hart '84; Veteran of five NH Presidential Primaries; Small Business Owner; Member of Senator Dodd's Steering Committee*

Pat Clark, Tilton – *Democratic Activist*

Jim Craig, Manchester – *Former New Hampshire House Minority Leader*

Representative Mike Farley, Manchester – *Former John Kerry '04 NH Steering Committee Member, Secretary of Manchester City Democratic Party, Democratic Activist, Member of Dodd's Steering Committee*

Joe Keefe, Manchester – *NH Democratic Party Chairman and former Chairman of Senator Dodd's State Steering Committee*

Quentin Keefe, Manchester – *Owner of Commercial Street Fishery; President, Regency Mortgage Company*

Chris Kennedy, Manchester – *NH State Senate Legislative Aide, veteran of the 2006 NH Senate Democratic Caucus Field Operation for the Lakes Region*

Joe Sullivan, Manchester – *Manchester Ward 12 Democratic Committee, Retired Teacher*

Anna Tilton, Marlborough – Co-Chair of Cheshire County for Dodd; Cheshire County Register of Probate; 2nd Vice Chair (and former Chair) of Cheshire County Democrats

An Associated Press article examines how the Obama campaign got the youth to vote in Iowa, a challenge they face again in New Hampshire.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Big crowd again in Manchester (2008-01-06 10:34)

Another big crowd gathered today for Barack Obama's rally in Manchester, New Hampshire. Watch this video showing the line outside the event.

[EMBED]

Here's the calendar of campaign events until primary day on Jan. 8.

EXETER MEET THE CANDIDATE WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Sunday, January 6 at 11:15 AM

Exeter High School, Cafeteria (Exeter, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please click [here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

DERRY RALLY WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Sunday, January 6 at 2:15 PM

Pinkerton Academy (Derry, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please click [here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

House Party with Governor Deval Patrick (Meeting)

Sunday, January 6 at 3:00 PM

Home of Laura and James Trowbridge (Peterborough, NH)

Please join Governor Deval Patrick (MA) as he talks with Granite Staters about Barack's campaign for change. Governor Patrick will be in Peterborough on Sunday,...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

SALEM MEET THE CANDIDATE WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Sunday, January 6 at 3:45 PM

Salem High School, Auditorium (Salem, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please [click here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Politics and the Arts (Meeting)

Sunday, January 6 at 5:00 PM

NH Theatre Project - West End Studio Theatre (Portsmouth, NH)

As we get closer to picking the next president of the United States join us for a conversation with Broadway Producer of "Hairspray", Margo Lion,...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Women for Obama House Party (Women for Obama House Party)

Sunday, January 6 at 6:00 PM

home (New Boston, NH)

dress formally

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

KEENE RALLY WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Sunday, January 6 at 6:45 PM

Keene High School, Cafeteria (Keene, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please [click here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

CLAREMONT RALLY WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Monday, January 7 at 7:30 AM

Stevens High School, Gym (Claremont, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please [click here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Vets Listening Roundtables (Meeting)

Monday, January 7 at 10:00 AM

Remember When (Rochester, NH)

Special Guest: Dick Klass, Colonel, USAF (retired) Veteran's Advisory Board, Obama for America 2008 220 combat missions in Viet Nam Recipient: Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart White...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

LEBANON MEET THE CANDIDATE WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Monday, January 7 at 10:30 AM

Lebanon Opera House (Lebanon, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please [click here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Politics and the Arts (Meeting)

Monday, January 7 at 12:00 PM

NH Institute of Art (Manchester, NH)

As we get closer to picking the next president of the United States join us for a conversation with Broadway Producer of "Hairspray", Margo Lion,...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Vets Listening Roundtables (Meeting)

Monday, January 7 at 1:00 PM

Cafe on the Corner (Dover, NH)

Special Guest: Dick Klass, Colonel, USAF (retired) Veteran's Advisory Board, Obama for America 2008 220 combat missions in Viet Nam Recipient: Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart White...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Vets Listening Roundtables (Meeting)

Monday, January 7 at 4:00 PM

The Loaf and Ladle (Exeter, NH)

Special Guest: Dick Klass, Colonel, USAF (retired) Veteran's Advisory Board, Obama for America 2008 220 combat missions in Viet Nam Recipient: Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart White...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

ROCHESTER RALLY WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Monday, January 7 at 5:30 PM

Rochester Opera House (Rochester, NH)

If you are a member of the press, please click [here](#). Barack Obama's experience is rooted in the lives of the men and women on the...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Vets Listening Roundtables (Meeting)

Monday, January 7 at 7:00 PM

Breaking New Grounds (Portsmouth, NH)

Special Guest: Dick Klass, Colonel, USAF (retired) Veteran's Advisory Board, Obama for America 2008 220 combat missions in Viet Nam Recipient: Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart White...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Be Counted Canvass (Community Service)

Tuesday, January 8 at 3:00 PM

Obama Portsmouth Office (Portsmouth, NH)

This shift is the most important canvass shift of the entire campaign. This is the final push on election day afternoon to get people to...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
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Be Counted Canvass (Organizing)

Tuesday, January 8 at 3:00 PM

Exeter for Obama Staging Location (Exeter, NH)

This shift is the most important canvass shift of the entire campaign. This is the final push on election day afternoon to get people to...

- [View Event Details](#)
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Be Counted Canvass (Organizing)

Tuesday, January 8 at 3:00 PM

Newmarket for Obama Staging Location (Newmarket, NH)

This shift is the most important canvass shift of the entire campaign. This is the final push on election day afternoon to get people to...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Primary After Party (Meeting)

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM

EBAs Restaurant (Everything But Anchovies) (Hanover, NH)

After you are done with your volunteer activities, meet up with other supporters at Everything But Anchovies (EBAs) in Hanover to watch the NH primary results...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

PRIMARY NIGHT RALLY WITH BARACK OBAMA (Official Event)

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30 PM

Nashua South High School (Nashua, NH)

If you are a member of the media, please go here. PRIMARY NIGHT RALLY Nashua South High School 36 Riverside St. Nashua, NH Doors Open: 7:30 PM An RSVP is strongly...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)
- [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Early States Election Schedule

New Hampshire Primary – Jan. 8 Nevada Caucus – Jan. 19 South Carolina Primary – Jan. 26 Super Tuesday – Feb. 5



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



ihavewrites (2008-01-06 10:55:00)

I am very pleased to have found this blog. I live and work in the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago and keep a very keen eye on world events.

Barack Obama has had my attention for a while now. I did use my blog of January 4, 2008 to honour The Audacity of Hope.

Lines, rallies, 100 Club Speech, Hawaiian music (2008-01-06 22:52)

The storm that plowed through here (Sacramento) and the pictures of people lined up in the snow in New Hampshire got me thinking of Barack's Hawaiian upbringing and the warm weather there!

Check out this YouTube video of clips of events from New Hampshire and the 100 Club speech from barackobama.com video with Hawaiian music in the background. Also included the cool animation from barackobama.com at the end.

Music:

Aloha Oe by Amy Hanaiali'i

Kawaipunahele by Keali'i Reichel

Wahine Ilikea by Makena

I'll Remember You by Kui Lee

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama gets more endorsements (2008-01-07 07:48)

The Gloucester Daily News, which publishes nine newspapers in Massachusetts, endorsed Barack Obama today.

Those who seek change in this presidential election will find it in Obama. He would lead the nation in a sharply different direction in foreign policy and on domestic matters.

Obama may be untested but he offers a huge upside potential. We encourage New Hampshire Democrats and like-minded independents to cast their votes for Barack Obama.

In Portland, Maine, the Sunday Telegram said "the possibilities of an Obama presidency, not the list of his accomplishments, is what makes him the most exciting figure on the Democratic scene."

"His abilities to compromise, inspire and speak to a broad spectrum of the electorate earns him our endorsement for the Democratic nomination in 2008."

The Air Travelers Association, a group that "advocates for airline passengers on airline safety, security, savings, and service" also endorsed Obama today. In a press release, the group's president David Stempler wrote:

We believe that Barack Obama is the best candidate for President, and as a forward-thinking President, will get NextGen passed in Congress, and then quickly implemented and deployed throughout the United States. We give our complete trust and support to Senator Barack Obama who can use his charisma, inspiration, and can-do attitude to solve many of the problems facing this country, including those involving our aviation system.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



kitty (2008-01-07 15:34:00)

I am very impressed with what I have learned about Obama. I hope he does well in New Hampshire. Good luck!

MSNBC's Brian Williams interviews Barack Obama (2008-01-07 18:26)

Check out the first part of Brian Williams' interview with Barack Obama on the NBC Nightly News.



IFRAME: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22425001/vp/22544361#22544361>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-01-07 22:00:00)

I don't know how to get a message to Obama but here goes. This war has been awful for the men and women who have died in the war. What better was to say we care than this government pay for the college education of the children of our lost soldiers grades permitting. What a way to give back to these families. And what a great campaign point.

Culinary Workers Union to endorse Obama? (2008-01-08 08:14)

Various sources including NBC's Tim Russert are reporting that Culinary Workers Union 226 in Nevada will endorse Barack Obama today as New Hampshire holds the nation's first primary.

The union's endorsement is seen by many as a ticket to victory in Nevada where culinary workers in casinos outnumber members of any other union and have traditionally delivered a bloc vote.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama vote (2008-01-08 12:41:00)

It's good to see Obama getting more endorsements; the more support the better! We should all continue to show our support online too. One way to do this is to give him good ratings on www.fittobepres.com. He is already in the lead with the most support out of the Democrats AND Republicans, but like I said before, the more support the better!

Obama Update (2008-01-08 14:36)

Reports of high turnout in the New Hampshire primary today should be good news for Sen. Barack Obama whose base consists of many young, first-time voters.

In addition to the possible Culinary Workers Union endorsement, the word is out that Unite Here, a broader labor coalition that includes Nevada's culinary workers may give Obama his first national union support.

In South Carolina, former Lt. Governor and State Rep. Robert Barber announced his endorsement of the Illinois senator today.

Hillary making Super Tuesday last stand?

According to some reports, if Hillary Clinton loses tonight she may for all practical purposes pull out of Nevada and South Carolina for a last stand in the two dozen Feb. 5 states.

Reportedly she's running out of money and doesn't want to waste resources on small states like Nevada and South Carolina where momentum is building for Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama finishes strong second in New Hampshire (2008-01-08 21:18)

Sen. Barack Obama came in second tonight but not far behind Hillary Clinton.

The primary illustrates how wrong polls, even late ones can be. Barack had double digit leads in a number of polls and was way ahead in the Reuters-Zogby poll on election day, but came up short.

It may not have made any difference as there was only five days of campaigning between Iowa and New Hampshire.

The focus now turns to Nevada where caucuses will be held on Jan. 19 giving the candidates 11 days to campaign including election day get out the vote.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



HectorB (2008-01-09 06:48:00)

It is VERY common knowledge that it is easy to ILLEGALLY vote in New Hampshire. Hillary has been flooding the state with bussed in help.Google, Russett Massachusetts license plates, if you don't believe me.

http://www.newsmax.com/insidecover/hillary_busing/2008/01/07/62291.html

What may have happened in New Hampshire (2008-01-08 21:43)

While I'm still watching the election stats as they are analyzed on television coverage, I get the feeling that independents may have opted more for the Republican primary costing Barack the vote.

Watching the pre-election polls, some people may have thought Barack had it wrapped up and decided that they would be better off influencing the Republican results.

The Obama campaign was hoping that independents would make up more than 60 percent of the Democratic vote but they only pulled above 50 percent.

Despite setback, many endorsements expected today (2008-01-09 08:01)

While some of the expected endorsements may back out at the last second, Sen. Barack Obama likely will receive many important endorsements today.

The Nevada chapter of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has already announced their support for Obama today.

Many endorsements expected today for Obama (2008-01-09 08:07)

Although some potential supporters may back out at the last second, Sen. Barack Obama should get many key endorsements today.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) already announced their support for Obama this morning.

According to the New York Times, both Nevada's Culinary Workers Union and the national labor coalition to which the latter belongs, known as Unite Here, will endorse the Illinois senator simultaneously at 11 am EST.

Here in California, state senators Alan Lowenthal of Los Angeles and Dean Florez of the Central Valley endorsed Obama yesterday. Today it is expected that among others, Ted Lieu and Nicole Parra from the state assembly and State Sen. Elaine Alquist will announce their support.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama camp to regroup (2008-01-09 08:23)

Almost certainly Barack Obama and his handlers and regrouping and reconsidering their options after the setback yesterday.

If I were an adviser, the strategy would be to treat Nevada and South Carolina as if they happened on the same day, just as you would for the Feb. 5 states.

There just isn't enough time to focus on Nevada and then shift gears in a week to South Carolina.

They will need to use many of the same campaign strategy and techniques that were applied in Iowa. If possible, Michelle Obama needs to get back on the stump.

It's difficult for Barack alone to handle both Bill and Hillary. I realize here it's much easier for the Clintons who do not have small children. Maybe a reasonable schedule could be worked out.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More endorsement news (2008-01-09 09:37)

I learned yesterday that there is a lot of very important support waiting in the wings for Barack Obama if one of the present candidates drops out. There are a lot these supporters for this candidate already working behind the scenes to support the Illinois senator. Unfortunately there is no reason yet to think this candidate will drop out before

Nevada.

In the meantime, the United Association, an international labor union, just endorsed Obama. Here is there press release:

United Association (UA) Becomes First International Union to Endorse Barack Obama for President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ – The United Association (UA) of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada today became the first International Union to announce its endorsement of U.S. Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States.

"Barack Obama is the UA's choice because he has always fought for working people throughout his career and will do the best job of bringing badly-needed change to Washington," said UA International President William P. Hite.

"Senator Obama will help us keep existing jobs and work to develop new higher-paying jobs here in America, reform our health care system, fix our ailing schools and make sure that the pensions of our retirees are safe."

"Throughout my career as a community organizer, Illinois State Senator and U.S. Senator, I've fought to help working Americans get better health care, higher wages and a more secure retirement," Obama said. "I'm honored to receive the endorsement of the United Association, and look forward to working with them to bring big changes to Washington that will help working people meet the challenges we face in this changing economy."

The UA is a multi-craft union whose members are engaged in the fabrication, installation and servicing of piping systems. There are approximately 340,000 highly-skilled United Association members who belong to over 300 individual local unions across North America.

Founded in 1889, the United Association is one of the most respected and influential building trades unions in the U.S. and Canada today. It serves as a collective voice for workers through negotiation and collective bargaining with employing contractor groups, such as the Mechanical Contractors Association of America and the National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors. The UA is also a key member of the Building and Construction Trades Department, the AFL-CIO, and the Canadian Federation of Labour.

SOURCE United Association

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Culinary Workers Union endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-09 09:46)

ABC News reported that Culinary Workers Union 226 has officially endorsed Sen. Barack Obama .

The 60,000 member union, the largest in Nevada, has traditionally been a potent force in the state with a well-oiled

and energetic political organization.

Across the nation in Georgia, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin also announced her support for the Illinois senator.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on Culinary Workers endorsement (2008-01-09 10:14)

Here's the ABC News article:

Obama Endorsed by Culinary Workers Union



Email



Share

January 09, 2008 9:11 AM

ABC News' Teddy Davis and Sunlen Miller Report: Despite losing Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, Sen. Barack Obama secured the endorsement of the Culinary Workers union.

The endorsement of the 60,000-member Culinary Workers union is seen as the biggest get in Nevada, a state which votes Jan. 19.

At 11 p.m. E.T. on Tuesday, a 12-member panel which controls the 60,000-member Culinary Workers union held a conference call to decide which '08 candidate to endorse.

The panel making the decision is the executive committee of UNITE-HERE, Culinary's parent union.

"We believe that Obama is the candidate who can bring the country together and we are proud to support his candidacy," Shauna Hamel, Executive Vice President of the union says.

The backing of the 60,000-member union is seen as important because the state's Democratic Party is only expecting 40,000 Democrats to participate in the caucuses.

Culinary's members work in casinos up and down the Las Vegas Strip.

Obama will travel to Las Vegas on Friday to formally accept the endorsement.

<http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/01/obama-endorsed.html>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Events in Nevada and South Carolina (2008-01-09 13:37)

Barack Obama will visit Charleston, South Carolina on Thursday, and his campaign will hold a forum to discuss foreign policy issues in Reno, Nevada.

The Obama campaign will be holding a Foreign Policy Summit with top advisors General Tony McPeak and Samantha Power in Reno on Friday, January 11.

General McPeak, a retired four-star general and former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Samantha Power, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide" and a professor of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard, will discuss Barack Obama's judgment to lead and his vision for a strong and principled new direction for American foreign policy.

WHO: Obama's Top Foreign Policy Advisors General Tony McPeak and Samantha Power

WHAT: Foreign Policy Summit

WHERE: University of Nevada, Reno

Joe Crowley Student Union Theater

1664 North Virginia Street

Reno, NV 89557

WHEN: Friday, January 11th

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/officialevent/4vdwv>

Rally with Barack Obama in Charleston (Official Event)

Thursday, January 10 at 11:00 AM

The Cistern, College of Charleston (Charleston, SC)

Rally for Change with Barack Obama at the College of Charleston Cistern

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Wednesday (2008-01-09 14:51)

Here in California, we have just started receiving election materials including our sample ballots.

Many people here are just starting to study the candidates and that would also be the case in other Super Tuesday states along with South Carolina and even Nevada.

Right after Nevada, South Carolina and the Feb. 5 states probably should be treated as one big election.

Some more important Obama endorsements have come in today. South Dakota Senator Tim Johnson endorsed his colleague today.

Northern California House Rep. George Miller also threw his support to the Illinois senator. Contra Costa Supervisor

Susan Bonilla and San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty also endorsed Obama; CSF supervisor Chris Daly announced his endorsement yesterday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Bill Richardson pulls out, impact on Obama campaign (2008-01-09 19:19)

Several sources have confirmed that Gov. Bill Richardson has withdrawn from the presidential primary. Now, I can't say what the governor will do, after all he was a Clinton appointee, but I do know that there are many of his supporters who are ready to shift over to Barack Obama .

These include Latinos with considerable pull in California and beyond, and other prominent non-Latino Californians. Quite a lot of Richardson's support outside of New Mexico is found in Southern California and Nevada.

My information comes from some very senior elected officials in the state senate here in Sacramento. However, since I do not know when or even if they will make the final decision now to shift to Barack, they can make their own announcements.

Six Los Angeles political leaders threw their support to Obama today even before the Richardson announcement.

They are: Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena; former Rep. Mel Levine; Assemblyman Ted Lieu, D-El Segundo; Los Angeles City Councilman Bernard Parks; West Hollywood Mayor John Duran and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke.

One of the reasons Latinos like Obama is that he was the only front-runner to openly state when a high pressure questions was posed during a debate that he supports driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama in Las Vegas (2008-01-09 20:17)

From nevada.barackobama.com:

Stand for Change Town Hall Meeting with Barack in Las Vegas

by Michael Pipe

Wednesday, January 09, 2008 at 05:45 PM



Senator Barack Obama will attend a rally with members of Culinary Workers Union before hosting a Stand for Change town hall meeting at Del Sol High School in Las Vegas this Friday, January 11th. He will be meeting with Nevadans from across Las Vegas to fire up supporters and undecided caucus-goers ahead of the January 19th caucuses. This will be Barack Obama's 11th visit to Nevada since announcing his plans to run for president.

Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama in Las Vegas

Del Sol High School Gymnasium

3100 East Patrick Lane

Las Vegas, NV 89120

Friday, January 11, 2008

Doors Open: 5:00 pm

Click the link below for more info or to print out your free tickets:

<http://nevada.barackobama.com/LasVegasTH>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

John Kerry to endorse Barack Obama in South Carolina (2008-01-10 08:27)

The Politico reports that Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the 2004 presidential nominee, will endorse Sen. Barack Obama today.

According to CNN, Kerry will announce his support at a rally today in South Carolina.

Kerry's endorsement could help Obama pick up more superdelegate support who hold votes at the Democratic Convention were the nominee is chosen. These superdelegates are not bound by the voting during the primary election. Kerry's endorsement could also help significantly in the state of Massachusetts where Gov. Deval Patrick is also supporting Obama.

Campaign manager David Plouffe said yesterday that a number of superdelegates are expected to announce their support for Obama in the coming days.

Plouffe also mentioned that in the eight days since the start of the new year, the Obama campaign has raised \$8 million, or an average of \$1 million a day. And money has been flooding in, much of it from online grassroots supporters, since the New Hampshire primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Nevada TV ad (2008-01-10 13:31)

Check out the new television ad to air in Nevada:
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: John Kerry Endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-10 13:40)

Check out the YouTube video of Sen. John Kerry endorsing Sen. Barack Obama in South Carolina.
[EMBED]
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlcmrTzoPXc>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: John Kerry Endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-10 13:40)

Check out the YouTube video of Sen. John Kerry endorsing Sen. Barack Obama in South Carolina.
[EMBED]

Ned Lamont supports Barack Obama (2008-01-10 18:34)

Ned Lamont, who made headlines when he beat Job Lieberman for the latter's senate seat during the primary only to lose when Lieberman ran as an independent, has endorsed Barack Obama today.

Lamont's endorsement is about as close to a Howard Dean nod as we'll get for the primary since Dean as DNC chief

is not supposed to take sides.

As an aside, Lieberman has crossed over to the other side and endorsed John McCain as president.

Here is the text of Lamont's endorsement:

When I decided to run for Senate, I did so because I deeply believed that the citizens of Connecticut were yearning to see fundamental changes in our politics - changes that would make government work for them again.

Today, with our Presidential primary in Connecticut less than a month away, I am announcing my support of Barack Obama for President because I am convinced that his forward-looking, progressive vision provides the best chance to enact meaningful reforms in the way Washington works.

Sen. Obama has the tone and temperament to bring out the best in our people and our nation, and to bring new coalitions together in support of the progressive policies we all want to see enacted. His campaign has already reflected this, not only by bringing hundreds of thousands of new voters of all ages to the polls, but by inspiring so many who are new to politics to become activists as well.

Ned Lamont's diary

Making healthcare affordable for all Americans, rebuilding our aging infrastructure, and ending our dependence on foreign oil are all problems that require more than a tax credit here or an earmark there. Barack is the candidate best able to enact these big changes necessary to getting our country moving again.

We have seen that Sen. Obama has the wisdom and judgment to get the big decisions right - as he did on Iraq more than five years ago. And when President Obama steps out of Air Force One in countries around the world, he will represent a fresh start with friends and allies. He will end the war in Iraq, work for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and start investing in America again - and we will be safer and stronger for it.

We Democrats are fortunate to have had many strong candidates running for President. As you may know, I was proud to work hard for Chris Dodd during his campaign. I have the deepest respect and admiration for Sen. Dodd - especially for his powerful calls to defend our constitutional freedoms by restoring habeas corpus, closing Guantanamo, and living up to the spirit of the Geneva Conventions. I know that Sen. Obama, a former professor of Constitutional Law, has been and will continue to be Chris' ally in fighting to protect our Constitution.

As Barack often says on the campaign trail these days, "with the challenges we face at this moment, the real gamble in this election is playing the same Washington game with the same Washington players and expecting a different result."

It's time to change the game.

(Cross-posted at NedLamont.com.)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Buzz: Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to endorse Obama? (2008-01-10 23:57)

Some sources are reporting that Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano may announce her endorsement as early as tomorrow and that it looks more likely she will endorse Sen. Barack Obama according to the political blogs. That would be yet

another superdelegate for the Illinois senator.

"And right now that buzz, from Tucson to Phoenix, is pointing heavily toward Obama rather than his archrival Hillary Clinton."

StarNet Politics Blog (Arizona Daily Star)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Napolitano to endorse Obama in Las Vegas (2008-01-11 09:08)

Many sources are now confirming that Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano will travel to Las Vegas today to announce her support of Sen. Barack Obama together with the candidate.

For those who wonder about the importance of endorsements, they can sometimes act as one of many factors in voter's decisions to support a candidate.

Maybe just as important, endorsements can help with fundraising, getting new volunteers and additional endorsements and in boosting the morale of a candidate's troops. They help create the appearance and/or reality of momentum at least for a brief period of time.

An endorsement from a governor is generally a good thing as it acts as a vote of confidence in one's leadership ability from the chief executive of a state.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Immigration (2008-01-11 10:29)

Obama on Immigration Issues

- Wants better patrolling of borders
- Supports welfare and Medicaid for immigrants.
- Wants undocumented immigrants to have opportunity to earn citizenship.
- Supports a guest worker program.
- Supports drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Floor Statement of Senator Barack Obama on Immigration Reform

Monday, April 3, 2006

 [Printable Format](#)

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to enter the debate on comprehensive immigration reform. It is a debate that will touch on the basic questions of morality, the law, and what it means to be an American.

I know that this debate evokes strong passions on all sides. The recent peaceful but passionate protests that we saw all across the country—500,000 in Los Angeles and 100,000 in my hometown of Chicago—are a testament to this fact, as are the concerns of millions of Americans about the security of our borders.

But I believe we can work together to pass immigration reform in a way that unites the people in this country, not in a way that divides us by playing on our worst instincts and fears.

Like millions of Americans, the immigrant story is also my story. My father came here from Kenya, and I represent a State where vibrant immigrant communities ranging from Mexican to Polish to Irish enrich our cities and neighborhoods. So I understand the allure of freedom and opportunity that fuels the dream of a life in the United States. But I also understand the need to fix a broken system.

When Congress last addressed this issue comprehensively in 1986, there were approximately 4 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. That number had grown substantially when Congress again addressed the issue in 1996. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 11 million undocumented aliens living in our country.

The American people are a welcoming and generous people. But those who enter our country illegally, and those who employ them, disrespect the rule of law. And because we live in an age where terrorists are challenging our borders, we simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, and unchecked. Americans are right to demand better border security and better enforcement of the immigration laws.

The bill the Judiciary Committee has passed would clearly strengthen enforcement. I will repeat that, because those arguing against the Judiciary Committee bill contrast that bill with a strong enforcement bill. The bill the Judiciary Committee passed clearly strengthens enforcement.

To begin with, the agencies charged with border security would receive new technology, new facilities, and more people to stop, process, and deport illegal immigrants.

But while security might start at our borders, it doesn't end there. Millions of undocumented immigrants live and work here without our knowing their identity or their background. We need to strike a workable bargain with them. They have to acknowledge that breaking our immigration laws was wrong. They must pay a penalty, and abide by all of our laws going forward. They must earn the right to stay over a 6-year period, and then they must wait another 5 years as legal permanent residents before they become citizens.

But in exchange for accepting those penalties, we must allow undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows and step on a path toward full participation in our society. In fact, I will not support any bill that does not provide this earned path to citizenship for the undocumented population—not just for humanitarian reasons; not just because these people, having broken the law, did so for the best of motives, to try and provide a better life for their children and their grandchildren; but also because this is the only practical way we can get a handle on the population that is within our borders right now.

To keep from having to go through this difficult process again in the future, we must also replace the flow of undocumented immigrants coming to work here with a new flow of guestworkers. Illegal immigration is bad for illegal immigrants and bad for the workers against whom they compete.

Replacing the flood of illegals with a regulated stream of legal immigrants who enter the United States after background checks and who are provided labor rights would enhance our security, raise wages, and improve working conditions for all Americans.

But I fully appreciate that we cannot create a new guestworker program without making it as close to impossible as we can for illegal workers to find employment. We do not need new guestworkers plus future undocumented immigrants. We need guestworkers instead of undocumented immigrants.

Toward that end, American employers need to take responsibility. Too often illegal immigrants are lured here with a promise of a job, only to receive unconscionably low wages. In the interest of cheap labor, unscrupulous employers look the other way when employees provide fraudulent U.S. citizenship documents. Some actually call and place orders for undocumented workers because they don't want to pay minimum wages to American workers in surrounding communities. These acts hurt both American workers and immigrants whose sole aim is to work hard and get ahead. That is why we need a simple, foolproof, and mandatory mechanism for all employers to check the legal status of new hires. Such a mechanism is in the Judiciary Committee bill.

And before any guestworker is hired, the job must be made available to Americans at a decent wage with benefits. Employers then need to show that there are no Americans to take these jobs. I am not willing to take it on faith that there are jobs that Americans will not take. There has to be a showing. If this guestworker program is to succeed, it must be properly calibrated to make certain that these are jobs that cannot be filled by Americans, or that the guestworkers provide particular skills we can't find in this country.

I know that dealing with the undocumented population is difficult, for practical and political reasons. But we simply cannot claim to have dealt with the problems of illegal immigration if we ignore the illegal resident population or pretend they will leave voluntarily. Some of the proposed ideas in Congress provide a temporary legal status and call for deportation, but fail to answer how the government would deport 11 million people. I don't know how it would be done. I don't know how we would line up all the buses and trains and airplanes and send 11 million people back to their countries of origin. I don't know why it is that we expect they would voluntarily leave after having taken the risk of coming to this country without proper documentation.

I don't know many police officers across the country who would go along with the bill that came out of the House, a bill that would, if enacted, charge undocumented immigrants with felonies, and arrest priests who are providing meals to hungry immigrants, or people who are running shelters for women who have been subject to domestic abuse. I cannot imagine that we would be serious about making illegal immigrants into felons, and going after those who would aid such persons.

That approach is not serious. That is symbolism, that is demagoguery. It is important that if we are going to deal with this problem, we deal with it in a practical, commonsense way. If temporary legal status is granted but the policy says these immigrants are never good enough to become Americans, then the policy that makes little sense.

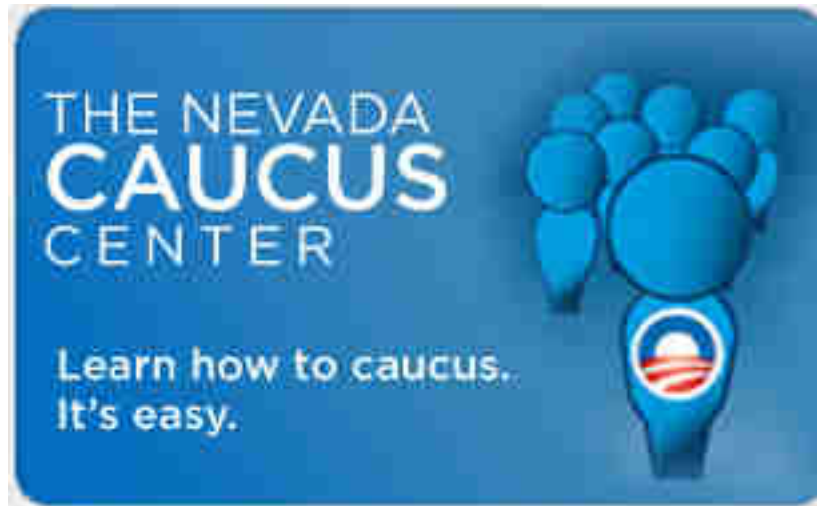
I believe successful, comprehensive immigration reform can be achieved by building on the work of the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee bill combines some of the strongest elements of Senator Hagel's border security proposals with the realistic workplace and earned-citizenship program proposed by Senators McCain and Kennedy.

Mr. President, I will come to the floor over the next week to offer some amendments of my own, and to support amendments my colleagues will offer. I will also come to the floor to argue against amendments that contradict our tradition as a nation of immigrants and as a nation of laws.

As FDR reminded the Nation at the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty, those who landed at Ellis Island "were the men and women who had the supreme courage to strike out for themselves, to abandon language and relatives, to start at the bottom without influence, without money, and without knowledge of life in a very young civilization."

It behooves us to remember that not every single immigrant who came into the United States through Ellis Island had proper documentation. Not every one of our grandparents or great-grandparents would have necessarily qualified for legal immigration. But they came here in search of a dream, in search of hope. Americans understand that, and they are willing to give an opportunity to those who are already here, as long as we get serious about making sure that our borders actually mean something.

Today's immigrants seek to follow in the same tradition of immigration that has built this country. We do ourselves and them a disservice if we do not recognize the contributions of these individuals. And we fail to protect our Nation if we do not regain control over our immigration system immediately.



X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama on Civil Rights (2008-01-11 10:39)

Obama on Civil Rights Issues

- Supports affirmative action.
- Opposes gay marriage; supports civil unions with full rights. Opposed constitutional ban on gay marriage.
- Wants to close Guantanamo and restore right of habeus corpus.
- Voted no on Patriot Act wiretapping.
- Voted yes on reauthorizing Patriot Act.
- Supports Feingold's amendments to the Patriot Act.
- Opposes 'don't ask, don't tell' in military.
- Supports better enforcement of Equal Pay Act for women.
- Supports strengthening Disabilities Act.
- Supports affirmative action in government and colleges.
- Voted no on banning flag-burning.
- Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement

- Combat Employment Discrimination
- Expand Hate Crimes Statutes
- End Deceptive Voting Practices
- End Racial Profiling
- Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Support
- Eliminate Sentencing Disparities
- Expand Use of Drug Courts

From barackobama.com:

Plan to Strengthen Civil Rights

“The teenagers and college students who left their homes to march in the streets of Birmingham and Montgomery; the mothers who walked instead of taking the bus after a long day of doing somebody else’s laundry and cleaning somebody else’s kitchen — they didn’t brave fire hoses and Billy clubs so that their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren would still wonder at the beginning of the 21st century whether their vote would be counted; whether their civil rights would be protected by their government; whether justice would be equal and opportunity would be theirs. . . . We have more work to do.”



X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Gary Hart endorses Obama (2008-01-11 12:24)

Former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Gary Hart announced his support for Sen. Barack Obama today. Hart, who still holds clout among certain sections of the Democratic establishment, described Obama as “the embodiment of what is best about our nation.” The endorsement comes after the Obama campaign opened six offices in Colorado, Hart’s home state.

There are also rumors that Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina may be considering an Obama endorsement. Clyburn, whose nod is considered highly influential in the state, is angry about remarks made by the Clintons dismissing the influence of Martin Luther King.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Jobs and the Economy (2008-01-11 17:33)

Obama on Job Issues

- Wants to end tax breaks for companies that outsource.
- Make minimum wage a living wage.
- Supports unions and organized labor.
- Does not believe tax cuts for rich create jobs.
- Has detailed plan for improving urban and rural development.
- Obama voted FOR raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 (2005 & 2007) and FOR restricting employer interference in union organizing (2007). The AFL-CIO has given him a rating of 100 %.

Barack Obama on the Economy

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama ads to air in Arizona and California (2008-01-12 10:06)

The Obama campaign is launching its first ads in Feb. 5 states it was revealed today by the Associated Press and CNN. In Arizona, the television ad "Mother" will begin airing apparently focused on the state's large retirement population. The ad tells of the problems Obama's mother faced in paying for health care when battling cancer:

"My mother died of cancer at 53. In those last painful months, she was more worried about paying her medical bills than getting well. I hear stories like hers everyday," says the Illinois senator in the 30-second spot, titled "Mother."

"For 20 years, Washington has talked about health care reform and reformed nothing. I've got a plan to cut costs and cover everyone. But unless we stop the bickering and the lobbyists we will be in the same place twenty years from now. I'm Barack Obama and I approve this message because to fix health care we have to fix Washington."

In California, the campaign will air "Quiet," where the candidate identifies oil as both an environmental and a national security issue:

"I don't accept that we should be still sending eight hundred million dollars a day, part to hostile nations because of our addiction to foreign oil. And in the bargain we're melting the polar ice caps."

"I went to Detroit to insist that we have to increase fuel efficiency standards. Now, I have to admit, the room got kind of quiet. We can't just tell people what they want to hear. We need to tell them what they need to hear. We need to tell them the truth."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Stand for Change Tour in Nevada (2008-01-12 10:52)

Barack Obama will be stumping in Reno, Fallon and Carson City on Jan. 14 as part of the his Stand for Change tour. To sign up for the rallies, click on the image below.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Sunday (2008-01-12 11:03)

Sen. Barack Obama today received the endorsement of The Republican, the daily newspaper of Springfield, Massachusetts.

Obama's ability to create coalitions of Democrats, Republicans and independents makes him the best candidate in his party to end the partisan gridlock in Washington. His success at winning broad bipartisan support last year for a landmark ethics bill is one example of his ability to unite people.

It's true that Obama has not spent as much time in Washington as others, but those who have spent a lot of time in the city are not as likely to be agents of change.

Obama believes in a less traditional approach to government. Instead of complicated government programs, he favors programs that are simpler to operate and understand. We don't know if it's possible for government to take a simple approach and keep it that way, but it's better than starting out with a complicated one and having elected officials make it even more complicated.

The presidency is the one job in America for which there really is no preparation. George W. Bush was a novice in many aspects of the job, so he put together a team regarded by many as the most experienced of any in the modern history of the presidency. Experience proved to be no substitute for good judgment and transparency, as we've seen over and over again in the Bush administration.

In any case, we don't believe Sen. Hillary Clinton's experience outweighs Obama's experience.

The problems in Washington - the number of Americans without health insurance, rising energy costs, the uncertain future of Social Security and a looming recession, to name just a few - demand someone who will not be an agent of the status quo.

More important, Obama also is the best candidate in his party to repair the damage done to the Constitution and restore the nation's reputation.

He's our choice.

Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska also endorsed Barack today saying the Illinois senator has "the greatest potential to ending the bitterness and poisonous atmosphere in Washington." And in North Carolina, U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield has switched his endorsement from John Edwards to Barack Obama.

So Obama has two more delegates toward the 2,025 needed to secure the nomination.

California Mail-in Ballots

Barack Obama's television ad campaign in California is well timed as absentee ballots for mail voters are arriving throughout the state. A certain segment of this group is usually undecided at this point although much smaller in comparison to those who will go to the polls on Feb. 5.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Video: Culinary Workers Union Rally with Barack (2008-01-12 14:16)

Watch this video of Barack Obama at the the Culinary Workers Union rally in Las Vegas. Si se puede! (Yes we can!)
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama on Education (2008-01-12 15:34)

"I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America."

— Barack Obama, Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Des Moines, Iowa, November 10, 2007

Barack Obama's Plan

Early Childhood Education

- Zero to Five Plan: Obama's comprehensive "Zero to Five" plan will provide critical support to young children and their parents.
- Expand Early Head Start and Head Start: Obama will quadruple Early Head Start, increase Head Start funding and improve quality for both.

- **Affordable, High-Quality Child Care:** Obama will also provide affordable and high-quality child care to ease the burden on working families.

K-12

- **Reform No Child Left Behind:** Obama will reform NCLB, which starts by funding the law.
- **Make Math and Science Education a National Priority.**
- **Address the Dropout Crisis:** Obama will address the dropout crisis by passing his legislation to provide funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies in middle school strategies such as personal academic plans, teaching teams, parent involvement, mentoring, intensive reading and math instruction, and extended learning time.
- **Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities:** Obama will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve one million more children.
- **Expand Summer Learning Opportunities:** Obama's "STEP UP" plan addresses the achievement gap by supporting summer learning opportunities for disadvantaged children through partnerships between local schools and community organizations.
- **Support College Outreach Programs:** Obama supports outreach programs like GEAR UP, TRIO and Upward Bound to encourage more young people from low-income families to consider and prepare for college.
- **Support English Language Learners:** Obama supports transitional bilingual education and will help Limited English Proficient students get ahead by holding schools accountable for making sure these students complete school.

Recruit, Prepare, Retain, and Reward America's Teachers

- **Recruit Teachers:** Obama will create new Teacher Service Scholarships that will cover four years of undergraduate or two years of graduate teacher education, including high-quality alternative programs for mid-career recruits in exchange for teaching for at least four years in a high-need field or location.
- **Prepare Teachers:** Obama will require all schools of education to be accredited. He will also create a voluntary national performance assessment so we can be sure that every new educator is trained and ready to walk into the classroom and start teaching effectively. Obama will also create Teacher Residency Programs that will supply 30,000 exceptionally well-prepared recruits to high-need schools.
- **Retain Teachers:** To support our teachers, Obama's plan will expand mentoring programs that pair experienced teachers with new recruits. He will also provide incentives to give teachers paid common planning time so they can collaborate to share best practices.
- **Reward Teachers:** Obama will promote new and innovative ways to increase teacher pay that are developed with teachers, not imposed on them.

Higher Education

- **Create the American Opportunity Tax Credit:** Obama will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students.

- Simplify the Application Process for Financial Aid.

For complete info on Obama's education plan visit his education issues page.

Barack Obama's Record

Record of Advocacy: Obama has been a leader on educational issues throughout his career. In the Illinois State Senate, Obama was a leader on early childhood education, helping create the state's Early Learning Council. In the U.S. Senate, Obama has been a leader in working to make college more affordable. His very first bill sought to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,100. As a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee, Obama helped pass legislation to achieve that goal in the recent improvements to the Higher Education Act. Obama has also introduced legislation to create Teacher Residency Programs and to increase federal support for summer learning opportunities.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

- ✕ [Read the Pre-K to 12 Plan](#)
- ✕ [Read the College Affordability Plan](#)

[Speech on Pre-K to 12 Education](#)

[Speech on College Affordability](#)



Click on image to donate.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Obama News on Sunday (2008-01-13 09:30)

Sen. Barack Obama has added a stop in Pahrump to his Nevada tour.

✕

In South Carolina, expert Samantha Power will be holding community gatherings to talk about Obama's foreign policy platform.

Clemson Community Gathering with Samantha Power
Monday, January 14, 2008 @ 1:45pm
Clemson, SC
Wofford College Community Gathering with Samantha Power
Monday, January 14, 2008 @ 4:15pm
Spartanburg, SC



Young people are really involved in the Obama campaign, and one sign of this is the report in the Washington Post that Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill was finally convinced to support Barack Obama, after praising him for months, at the urging of her 18-year-old daughter.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama California opens four new offices (2008-01-13 12:15)

The California Obama campaign is having the grand opening of four new official campaign offices in San Jose, Palo Alto, Santa Ana, and San Bernadino today, January 13th, at 1pm to 3pm PST at each location. There is a total now of nine California field offices. Here is a list of the new office addresses:

- 410 East Santa Clara Satreet, San Jose, CA 95113
- 3892 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306
- 214 N. Broadway, Ste. 210, Santa Ana, CA 92701
- 374 W. Court St., Ste. E207, San Bernardino, CA 92401

barackobama.com easily leads web race

According to alexa.com, the official Obama campaign website has jumped far ahead of the Hillary Clinton and John Edwards sites starting a week or so before the beginning of the Iowa Caucus.

At one point in Jan., Obama's site reached more than three times the percentage of internet users and page views as the second place Clinton site.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



State Sen. Gil Cedillo to endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-13 16:01)

California State Sen. Gil Cedillo will endorse Sen. Barack Obama today according to a spokesperson for Cedillo. Expect a large of number of California legislators to announce their support for Obama soon.

In Nevada, Obama spoke out against efforts to shut down at-large caucus sites designed to help out casino workers.

"Ever since I got the support of Local 226, the lawyers decided to get involved. The rules were OK when the other campaigns thought they would win the Culinary endorsement," Obama said.

"As soon as you decided to support the outsider, the working people instead of the big shots, all the sudden they decided they wanted to change the rules."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-01-15 17:16:00)

Too bad. Obama is an inexperience person with a very small platform. I thought you would be a better judge to support another candidate where the Latin vote will actually have more of an affect.

Michelle Obama returns to stump in South Carolina (2008-01-13 18:17)

Michelle Obama will be meeting with the community in Florence and Georgetown in South Carolina on Jan. 14.

Florence Community Gathering with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Monday, January 14 at 10:00 AM

Francis Marion University - Smith Center Gym (Florence, SC)

Meet Michelle Obama, wife of Barack Obama, and discuss why her husband is the one candidate who can bring Democrats, Independents and Republicans together to...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)

Georgetown Community Gathering with Michelle Obama (Official Event)

Monday, January 14 at 3:00 PM

Bethel AME Church (Georgetown, SC)

Meet Michelle Obama, wife of Barack Obama, and discuss why her husband is the one candidate who can bring Democrats, Independents and Republicans together to...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Nevada Ground Campaign (2008-01-14 09:27)

Barack Obama met with precinct captains in Las Vegas' Doolittle Center on Sunday.



He also went door to door canvassing with the culinary workers of Local 226.



[EMBED] Nelson and Leslie canvass for Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Where Obama Stands: On Iraq (2008-01-14 13:59)

From the official blog :

Where Obama Stands: On Iraq

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 03:15 PM

"Where Obama Stands" is a series of posts highlighting Obama's innovative approaches to challenge the status quo and get results on the issues that matter most to Americans. For a full list of Senator Obama's detailed policy positions, check out BarackObama.com/issues and/or download Obama's complete booklet of policy positions, "The Blueprint for Change." We are also looking for your feedback and suggestions on the issues; if you want to share your ideas, please submit your thoughts through our MyPolicy page.



Plan for Ending the War in Iraq

“But conventional thinking in Washington lined up for war. The pundits judged the political winds to be blowing in the direction of the President. Despite - or perhaps because of how much experience they had in Washington, too many politicians feared looking weak and failed to ask hard questions. Too many took the President at his word instead of reading the intelligence for themselves. Congress gave the President the authority to go to war. Our only opportunity to stop the war was lost.

I made a different judgment. I thought our priority had to be finishing the fight in Afghanistan. I spoke out against what I called “a rash war” in Iraq. I worried about, ‘an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs, and undetermined consequences.’ The full accounting of those costs and consequences will only be known to history. But the picture is beginning to come into focus.”

—Barack Obama, Clinton, Iowa, September 12, 2007

The Problem

The Surge: The goal of the surge was to create space for Iraq’s political leaders to reach an agreement to end Iraq’s civil war. At great cost, our troops have helped reduce violence in some areas of Iraq, but even those reductions do not get us below the unsustainable levels of violence of mid-2006. Moreover, Iraq’s political leaders have made no progress in resolving the political differences at the heart of their civil war.

Military Strain: The military is being severely strained by repeated and lengthy deployments. The Army and Marine Corps are facing a crisis as 40 percent of their equipment is either in Iraq or being repaired. This crisis has led many of our generals to conclude that current demands make our forces unable to rapidly respond to the contingencies we may face in the future.

Barack Obama’s Plan

Judgment You Can Trust

As a candidate for the United States Senate in 2002, Obama put his political career on the line to oppose going to war in Iraq, and warned of “an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs, and undetermined consequences.” Obama has been a consistent, principled and vocal opponent of the war in Iraq.

- In 2003 and 2004, he spoke out against the war on the campaign trail;
- In 2005, he called for a phased withdrawal of our troops;
- In 2006, he called for a timetable to remove our troops, a political solution within Iraq, and aggressive diplomacy with all of Iraq’s neighbors;
- In January 2007, he introduced legislation in the Senate to remove all of our combat troops from Iraq by March 2008.
- In September 2007, he laid out a detailed plan for how he will end the war as president.

Bringing Our Troops Home

Obama will immediately begin to remove our troops from Iraq. He will remove one to two combat brigades each month, and have all of our combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months. Obama will make it clear that we will not build any permanent bases in Iraq. He will keep some troops in Iraq to protect our embassy and diplomats; if al Qaeda attempts to build a base within Iraq, he will keep troops in Iraq or elsewhere in the region to carry out targeted strikes on al Qaeda. **Press Iraq’s Leaders to Reconcile**

The best way to press Iraq’s leaders to take responsibility for their future is to make it clear that we are leaving. As we remove our troops, Obama will engage representatives from all levels of Iraqi society – in and out of government – to


seek a new accord on Iraq's Constitution and governance. The United Nations will play a central role in this convention, which should not adjourn until a new national accord is reached addressing tough questions like federalism and oil revenue-sharing. Regional Diplomacy

Obama will launch the most aggressive diplomatic effort in recent American history to reach a new compact on the stability of Iraq and the Middle East. This effort will include all of Iraq's neighbors — including Iran and Syria. This compact will aim to secure Iraq's borders; keep neighboring countries from meddling inside Iraq; isolate al Qaeda; support reconciliation among Iraq's sectarian groups; and provide financial support for Iraq's reconstruction. Humanitarian Initiative

Obama believes that America has a moral and security responsibility to confront Iraq's humanitarian crisis — two million Iraqis are refugees; two million more are displaced inside their own country. Obama will form an international working group to address this crisis. He will provide at least \$2 billion to expand services to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries, and ensure that Iraqis inside their own country can find a safe-haven. Barack Obama's Record

- Barack Obama opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning. In 2002, as the conventional thinking in Washington lined up for war, Obama had the judgment and courage to speak out against the war. He said the war would lead to "an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs and undetermined consequences." In January 2007, Obama introduced legislation to responsibly end the war in Iraq, with a phased withdrawal of troops engaged in combat operations.
- Obama has a plan to immediately begin withdrawing our troops engaged in combat operations at a pace of one or two brigades every month, to be completed by the end of next year. He would call for a new constitutional convention in Iraq, convened with the United Nations, which would not adjourn until Iraq's leaders reach a new accord on reconciliation. He would use presidential leadership to surge our diplomacy with all of the nations of the region on behalf of a new regional security compact. And he would take immediate steps to confront the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

 Read the Plan

Read the Speech

[EMBED]

Obama vs. Clinton and Edwards on Iraq

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Zoe Lofgren endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-14 14:09)

U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren from the Silicon Valley in California is throwing her support to Sen. Barack Obama. In 2004, Lofgren was a strong supporter of Howard Dean.

"Just as John F. Kennedy brought a new generation of leadership to America with his election, and just as Bobby Kennedy inspired a generation into public service, Barack Obama has excited the imagination of disillusioned Americans. Hope is the essential first ingredient to action today," Lofgren said in an endorsement statement.

A number of California legislators are expected to endorse Obama soon including State Sen. Darrell Steinberg from here in Sacramento.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

2,500 greet Barack Obama in Reno (2008-01-14 18:45)

Obama on the Environment (2008-01-15 09:46)

Check out Barack's plan on energy and the environment from barackobama.com .

Plan for a Clean Energy Future

"Well, I don't believe that climate change is just an issue that's convenient to bring up during a campaign. I believe it's one of the greatest moral challenges of our generation. That's why I've fought successfully in the Senate to increase our investment in renewable fuels. That's why I reached across the aisle to come up with a plan to raise our fuel standards... And I didn't just give a speech about it in front of some environmental audience in California. I went to Detroit, I stood in front of a group of automakers, and I told them that when I am president, there will be no more excuses — we will help them retool their factories, but they will have to make cars that use less oil."

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, October 14, 2007

At a Glance

- Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050
- Invest in a Clean Energy Future
- Support Next Generation Biofuels
- Set America on Path to Oil Independence
- Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030
- Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

The Problem

Foreign Oil: America's 20-million-barrel-a-day oil habit costs our economy \$1.4 billion a day, and \$500 billion in 2006 alone. Every single hour, we spend \$41 million on foreign oil.

Climate Change: As a result of climate change, glaciers are melting faster; the polar ice caps are shrinking; trees are blooming earlier; more people are dying in heat waves; species are migrating, and eventually many will become extinct.

Barack Obama's Plan

Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050

- **Cap and Trade:** Obama supports implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary: 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Obama's cap-and-trade system will require all pollution credits to be auctioned. A 100 percent auction ensures that all polluters pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these emission rights away to coal and oil companies. Some of the revenue generated by auctioning allowances will be used to support the development of clean energy, to invest in energy efficiency improvements, and to address transition costs, including helping American workers affected by this economic transition.
- **Confront Deforestation and Promote Carbon Sequestration:** Obama will develop domestic incentives that reward forest owners, farmers, and ranchers when they plant trees, restore grasslands, or undertake farming practices that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Invest in a Clean Energy Future

- **Invest \$150 Billion over 10 Years in Clean Energy:** Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial-scale renewable energy, invest in low-emissions coal plants, and begin the transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.
- **Double Energy Research and Development Funding:** Obama will double science and research funding for clean energy projects including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources.
- **Invest in a Skilled Clean Technologies Workforce:** Obama will use proceeds from the cap-and-trade auction program to invest in job training and transition programs to help workers and industries adapt to clean technology development and production. Obama will also create an energy-focused Green Jobs Corps to connect disconnected and disadvantaged youth with job skills for a high-growth industry.
- **Convert our Manufacturing Centers into Clean Technology Leaders:** Obama will establish a federal investment program to help manufacturing centers modernize and Americans learn the new skills they need to produce green products.
- **Clean Technologies Deployment Venture Capital Fund:** Obama will create a Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund to fill a critical gap in U.S. technology development. Obama will invest \$10 billion per year into this fund for five years. The fund will partner with existing investment funds and our National Laboratories to ensure that promising technologies move beyond the lab and are commercialized in the U.S.
- **Require 25 Percent of Renewable Electricity by 2025:** Obama will establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025.
- **Develop and Deploy Clean Coal Technology:** Obama will significantly increase the resources devoted to the commercialization and deployment of low-carbon coal technologies. Obama will consider whatever policy tools are necessary, including standards that ban new traditional coal facilities, to ensure that we move quickly to commercialize and deploy low carbon coal technology.

Support Next Generation Biofuels

- **Deploy Cellulosic Ethanol:** Obama will invest federal resources, including tax incentives, cash prizes and government contracts into developing the most promising technologies with the goal of getting the first two billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol into the system by 2013.

- **Expand Locally-Owned Biofuel Refineries:** Less than 10 percent of new ethanol production today is from farmer-owned refineries. New ethanol refineries help jumpstart rural economies. Obama will create a number of incentives for local communities to invest in their biofuels refineries.
- **Establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard:** Barack Obama will establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard to speed the introduction of low-carbon non-petroleum fuels. The standard requires fuels suppliers to reduce the carbon their fuel emits by ten percent by 2020.
- **Increase Renewable Fuel Standard:** Obama will require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be included in the fuel supply by 2022 and will increase that to at least 60 billion gallons of advanced biofuels like cellulosic ethanol by 2030.

Set America on Path to Oil Independence

Obama's plan will reduce oil consumption by at least 35 percent, or 10 million barrels per day, by 2030. This will more than offset the equivalent of the oil we would import from OPEC nations in 2030.

- **Increase Fuel Economy Standards:** Obama will double fuel economy standards within 18 years. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars rather than overseas companies. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.

Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030

- **Set National Building Efficiency Goals:** Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He'll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.
- **Establish a Grant Program for Early Adopters:** Obama will create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps to implement new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency.
- **Invest in a Digital Smart Grid:** Obama will pursue a major investment in our utility grid to enable a tremendous increase in renewable generation and accommodate modern energy requirements, such as reliability, smart metering, and distributed storage


Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

- **Create New Forum of Largest Greenhouse Gas Emitters:** Obama will create a Global Energy Forum — that includes all G-8 members plus Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa — the largest energy consuming nations from both the developed and developing world. The forum would focus exclusively on global energy and environmental issues.
- **Re-Engage with the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change:** The UNFCCC process is the main international forum dedicated to addressing the climate problem and an Obama administration will work constructively within it.

Barack Obama's Record

- **Renewable Fuels:** Obama has worked on numerous efforts in the Senate to increase access to and use of renewable fuels. Obama passed legislation with Senator Jim Talent (R-MO) to give gas stations a tax credit for installing E85 ethanol refueling pumps. The tax credit covers 30 percent of the costs of switching one or more traditional petroleum pumps to E85, which is an 85 percent ethanol/15 percent gasoline blend. Obama also sponsored an amendment that became law providing \$40 million for commercialization of a combined flexible fuel vehicle/hybrid car within five years.
- **CAFE:** Obama introduced a bold new plan that brought Republicans and Democrats, CAFE supporters and long-time opponents together in support of legislation that will gradually increase fuel economy standards and offer what the New York Times editorial page called "real as opposed to hypothetical results."

For More Information about Barack's Plan

 [Read the Energy Plan](#)
[Read the Speech](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Tuesday (2008-01-15 10:05)

Barack Obama prepares for the MSNBC debate tonight. On Wednesday, Barack will appear in Henderson, Nevada.



Click image to attend.

[EMBED]

Las Vegas town hall meeting attendees pledge to caucus for Obama.

Music stars back Obama

Win Butler of the indie rock band Arcade Fire announced on his blog that he was supporting Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton.

Pete Wentz of Fall Out Boy also endorsed Obama and is hosting a fundraiser for the Illinois senator in Chicago next week.

"After watching the New Hampshire primary, I couldn't just be an observer anymore – I had to act," Wentz said.

"Barack is the first politician who's ever made me feel like our voices actually matter."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Latino legislators endorse Obama in Los Angeles (2008-01-15 12:13)

[EMBED]

California Latino leaders endorse Barack Obama

A coalition of Latino leaders gathered Monday to endorse Obama at the Los Angeles campaign headquarters.

Those in attendance included Gloria Romero, Martha Escutia, Gil Cedillo and Dean Florez of the state senate and Pomona mayor Norma Torres. Romero is the Senate majority leader and the highest ranking female in the California legislature; Escutia is chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama in Nevada (2008-01-15 17:30)

[EMBED]

2,400 rally with Barack Obama in Carson City, Nevada

Two televisions directed at the Latino community began airing today in Nevada.

[EMBED]

Hope

[EMBED]

Something is Happening



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-01-15 17:30)

[EMBED]

Barack picks up more key support (2008-01-15 18:06)

The Top of the Ticket blog of the Los Angeles Times is reporting that Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the powerful Los Angeles County Federation of Labor will endorse Barack Obama's candidacy for president.

Mo Denis, one of three Latino state legislators in Nevada, endorsed Obama this morning after meeting with and questioning the Illinois senator. Denis had formerly supported Gov. Bill Richardson.

The Statesman Journal reports two important endorsements from Oregon, Randall Edwards and Susan Castillo:

Barack Obama is the right person to heal this country and restore America's standing in the world," said Edwards, who is completing a second four-year term as treasurer this year. He is barred from running for a third term.

Castillo, the first Hispanic woman in statewide office, said she is endorsing Obama for his commitment to education. She has been a state schools chief, a nonpartisan office, for five years; she was a Democratic state senator for six years before that.

Of Oregon's top Democrats, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley have endorsed New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, and Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley and Oregon Senate President pro tem Margaret Carter have endorsed former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. Others have made no public endorsements.

In Ohio, Mayor Jay Williams of Youngstown endorsed Obama saying "I admire his ability to inspire; he's seen as an agent of change."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Las Vegas Review-Journal and other endorsements (2008-01-16 00:24)

Nevada's largest newspaper, the Las Vegas Review-Herald left a note on its website that it would endorse Sen. Barack Obama on Wednesday.

The Obama campaign released a list of other prominent Nevada endorsements on Tuesday.

Key Leaders in Nevada Endorse Barack Obama

Former Senate Candidate Jack Carter Cites Obama's Ability to Unify and Inspire Hope

LAS VEGAS, NV - Obama for America today announced the support of several key Democratic leaders in Nevada, including former candidate for the U.S. Senate, Jack Carter. Citing Barack Obama's integrity and unique ability to bring people together, these leaders know Obama is the one candidate who puts aside partisan politics and offers change we can believe in.

"Senator Obama has impressed me over the last year with the consistency and quality of his message," Obama supporter Jack Carter said. "But I am even more impressed by his constant refrain to join together to fight the divisiveness in Washington and turn our energy to solving the problems which confront us all. I believe Senator Obama has the message, the desire, and the enthusiasm to bring our country together in a smashing victory in November," continued Carter.

"I'm proud to have the support of these leaders who have encouraged the movement for change in Nevada and across the nation," said Senator Barack Obama. "Their efforts during the week leading up to the caucuses will ensure our grassroots movement succeeds on Caucus Day."

These Democratic leaders join Nevadans across the state who have endorsed Barack Obama.

Jack Carter, Las Vegas - 2006 Democratic Nominee for the U.S. Senate and vocal opponent of the Iraq War; successful investment consultant and businessman; honorably served in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Assemblyman Mo Denis, Las Vegas - Nevada State Assemblyman, District No. 28

Evelyn Mount, Reno - Community Activist

Steve Platt, Carson City - Chairman, Carson City Democratic Central Committee

State Senator Mike Schneider, Las Vegas - Nevada State Senator, District No. 11

Jessica Sferrazza, Reno - Reno City Councilwoman, Ward 3

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Maria Elena Durazo on Barack Obama (2008-01-16 07:41)

Los Angeles labor leader Maria Elena Durazo had this to say about her support for Sen. Barack Obama:

"My passion is the labor movement, and I believe very strongly that Sen. Obama is very clear about his support for workers who want to organize, workers who want to lift themselves out of poverty, and also protect good middle-class jobs."

"On a personal level, he really embodies the slogan we use a lot, Cesar Chavez's '*Sí, se puede.*' (Yes, we can.)" He has proved it by the way he inspires voters, the way he mobilizes."

Fernando Guerra, director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University says Durazo "symbolizes the new power in Los Angeles and in California – the marriage of Latinos and labor."

"And when you have those numbers, that organization and those volunteers, it makes an impact. There is no person in all of California who could get more people out to the street to go do something, either to march or get the vote out."

Durazo's son, a senior in high school, played a role in her final decision. "He said, 'In the end, Mom, it's the chance of a lifetime.' For him to say that means a lot. It's true."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Nevada ads (2008-01-16 14:39)

Check out the new television ads airing in Nevada. The first is called "President" and the second "Would."

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Mobilizing Voters (2008-01-16 15:13)

Not a task to be taken lightly especially in lower income neighborhoods and college communities.

Problems can range from long lines to lack of transportation. One good thing is that the Nevada caucuses and South Carolina primary are both taking place on Saturday, so most voters shouldn't have work conflicts. Note though that casinos are 24/7 operations. Feb. 5 polls fall on the normal voting day of Tuesday with all the associated problems.

The traditional methods of getting out the vote include phone-banking, canvassing, rallies, providing transportation, waving signs, etc. It's important to let supporters not excuse themselves from voting specifically for Barack Obama thinking that just a single vote won't matter anyway.

For those who can't go to Nevada and don't have free long distance for phone-banking, there are some ways to help online.

First of all you can join barackobama.com, if you haven't already.

Obviously if you know anyone in a voting state, you can send them an email or text message letting them know about

your support of Barack.

For some ideas on online or netroots campaigning, try some of these links:

Action Center

Obama Mobile

X

X X

X X

X X

X X

X

Rate up good Obama news (works on YouTube also)

baracktivor

Publicizing your events with online calendars

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack stumps through Nevada (2008-01-16 18:02)

'Stand for Change' Town Hall with Barack Obama in Las Vegas

Rancho High School

1900 Searles Avenue

Las Vegas, NV

Thursday, January 17th, 2008

Doors open: 4:00 p.m.

'Stand for Change' Town Hall with Barack Obama in Reno

University of Nevada, Reno

Virginia Street Gymnasium

1664 N. Virginia Street Reno, NV

Friday, January 18

Doors open: 8:15 a.m.

'Stand for Change' Town Hall with Barack Obama in Elko

Elko High School

987 College Ave.

Elko, NV

Friday, January 18

Doors open: 2:30 p.m.

For security reasons, bags are not allowed inside the event. Please limit personal items. No signs or banners are permitted.

The event is free and open to the public. Michelle Obama will be appearing with John Kerry on Jan. 17 but the RSVP is closed for that event.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Poverty (2008-01-16 22:32)

Plan to combat urban poverty

“I’m in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade... That’s why I’m running, Democrats — to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.”

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, November 10, 2007

At a Glance

- Expand Access to Jobs
- Make Work Pay for All Americans
- Strengthen Families
- Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing
- Tackle Concentrated Poverty

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

Watch the Video

The Problem

Poverty Rising: There are nearly 37 million poor Americans. Most Americans living in poverty work, but still cannot afford to make ends meet.

Minimum Wage is Not Enough: Even when a parent works full-time earning minimum wage and EITC and food stamps are factored into their income, families are still \$1,550 below the federal poverty line because of the flat-lined minimum wage.

Barack Obama’s Plan

Expand Access to Jobs

- **Help Americans Grab a Hold of and Climb the Job Ladder:** Obama will invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathway programs that implement proven methods of helping low-income Americans succeed in the workforce.
- **Create a Green Jobs Corps:** Obama will create a program to directly engage disadvantaged youth in energy efficiency opportunities to strengthen their communities, while also providing them with practical skills in this important high-growth career field.
- **Improve Transportation Access to Jobs:** As president, Obama will work to ensure that low-income Americans have transportation access to jobs. Obama will double the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program to ensure that additional federal public transportation dollars flow to the highest-need communities and that urban planning initiatives take this aspect of transportation policy into account.
- **Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Supports:** Obama will work to ensure that ex-offenders have access to job training, substance abuse and mental health counseling, and employment opportunities. Obama will also create a prison-to-work incentive program and reduce barriers to employment.

Make Work Pay for All Americans

- **Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit:** Obama will increase the number of working parents eligible for EITC benefits, increase the benefits available to parents who support their children through child support payments, increase benefits for families with three or more children, and reduce the EITC marriage penalty, which hurts low-income families.
- **Create a Living Wage:** Obama will raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation to make sure that full-time workers can earn a living wage that allows them to raise their families and pay for basic needs such as food, transportation, and housing.
- **Provide Tax Relief:** Obama will provide all low and middle-income workers a \$500 Making Work Pay tax credit to offset the payroll tax those workers pay in every paycheck. Obama will also eliminate taxes for seniors making under \$50,000 per year.

Strengthen Families

- **Promote Responsible Fatherhood:** Obama will sign into law his Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act to remove some of the government penalties on married families, crack down on men avoiding child support payments, and ensure that payments go to families instead of state bureaucracies.
- **Support Parents with Young Children:** Obama will expand the highly-successful Nurse-Family Partnership to all 570,000 low-income, first-time mothers each year. The Nurse-Family Partnership provides home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income expectant mothers and their families.
- **Expand Paid Sick Days:** Today, three-out-of-four low-wage workers have no paid sick days. Obama supports guaranteeing workers seven paid sick days per year.

Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

- **Create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** Obama will create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods.

- **Fully Fund the Community Development Block Grant:** Obama will fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program and engage with urban leaders across the country to increase resources to the highest-need Americans.


Tackle Concentrated Poverty

- **Establish 20 Promise Neighborhoods:** Obama will create 20 Promise Neighborhoods in areas that have high levels of poverty and crime and low levels of student academic achievement in cities across the nation. The Promise Neighborhoods will be modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, which provides a full network of services, including early childhood education, youth violence prevention efforts and after-school activities, to an entire neighborhood from birth to college.
- **Ensure Community-Based Investment Resources in Every Urban Community:** Obama will work with community and business leaders to identify and address the unique economic development barriers of every major metropolitan area. Obama will provide additional resources to the federal Community Development Financial Institution Fund, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies, especially to their local branch offices, to address community needs.
- **Invest in Rural Areas:** Obama will invest in rural small businesses and fight to expand high-speed Internet access. He will improve rural schools and attract more doctors to rural areas.

Barack Obama's Record

- **Tax Relief for Low-Income Working Families:** Obama created the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working families in 2000 and successfully sponsored a measure to make the credit permanent in 2003. The law offered about \$105 million in tax relief over three years.
- **Housing:** In the Illinois State Senate, Obama championed multiple pieces of legislation to help low-income families find adequate affordable housing.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

 [Read the Plan](#)

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Events in South Carolina today (2008-01-17 06:59)

Kal Penn & Tatyana Ali College Tour

Columbia, SC; Aiken, SC; Greenwood, SC

[Check Events for Times](#)

A Conversation with Shelia Johnson

Orangeburg, SC

11:00am

Community Gathering with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin

Union, SC

5:30pm

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Santa Barbara Independent endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-17 08:55)

The Santa Barbara Independent a weekly newspaper with a circulation of 40,000 in Santa Barbara, California has endorsed Barack Obama for president.

For President: Barack Obama

Thursday, January 17, 2008

By Marianne Partridge, Editor in Chief

Our country is in serious trouble. We all know the problems. Bugged down in a senseless war of our own making, America is reviled around the world as an impotent bully. Our economy is unraveling, our dollar is in the basement, and our jobs are disappearing. Our medical system is in the hands of corporate giants. Our environment is getting trashed. The list goes on and on. But the worst thing that has happened to us is that as a nation we have lost our way. We have lost faith that Americans can still be the good guys, that we can control greed, forbid torture, help the poor, and protect the Earth. Eight years of the incompetent, ideologically blinded George W. Bush and his dreadful administration have caused incalculable harm. But the time for railing against President Bush is over. Now we must change—not just our president, but ourselves.

The primary on February 5 is the first chance Californians will have to help set the nation on the right path. The Independent rarely endorses in party primaries, but this year we endorse with confidence one candidate who is uniquely qualified to be president: Barack Obama.



Photo: Paul Wellman

What impresses us most about Obama is his ability to inspire hope in those who've learned to dismiss the political process as a cynical joke. And his gift goes beyond speechifying, which he does with uncommon grace. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton has charged that he is short on experience. We disagree. He has had more years of legislative experience than Clinton, with three years in the U.S. Senate and eight years in that rough-and-tumble body known as the Illinois Legislature. During those 11 years, he successfully brought together Democrats and Republicans to pass legislation benefitting ordinary people—from tax credits for children to ethics reform in Congress.

And what good did Clinton's experience serve us when she voted to give President Bush a blank check to wage war on Iraq? Few decisions in history have proved so predictably wrong-headed. As the most engaged First Lady in history and as a U.S. Senator, she should have known better. Yet Clinton never even read the National Intelligence Estimates that assessed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein as odious but not an imminent threat to the United States. Our own congressman, Lois Capps, knew better when she voted against the war authorization act.

At that time, Obama, who had not yet assumed his U.S. Senate seat—and could not vote—spoke out extensively against the war and predicted many of the horrors that have since come to pass: thousands of American dead, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi dead. Escalating terrorism. A staggering drain on the economy. Untold dreams forever deferred.



Hillary Clinton

While Clinton is certainly a strong candidate for president, she remains fundamentally a tragic figure in American politics. The victim of one of the most relentlessly vicious and sexist smear campaigns unleashed in recent memory, Clinton retreated into her own interior fortress. We sympathize with her plight, but that's no reason to give her our vote on February 5. In the next four years, we need to tear down the fortress walls and begin the hard work of rediscovering what it really means to be American. As a nation, we long to regain the courage of our convictions, to renew our faith in American ideals.

The groundswell of support for Barack Obama is based on the belief that he has the ability to inspire hope and define our aspirations as a nation in a way that reaches not only Americans, but the world. We believe this as well, and urge you to vote for Barack Obama in the Democratic primary on February 5.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Nevada SEIU airs TV ad (2008-01-17 09:05)

Here's a new television ad from Nevada SEIU highlighting Obama's union endorsements.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sen. Patrick Leahy endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-17 09:16)

Sen. Patrick Leahy announced today he will support Sen. Barack Obama for president.

"I think we can restore that respect but we need a president who can reintroduce America to the world and reintroduce America to itself," Leahy, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, said.

"My endorsement in opposition to either Sen. Clinton or Sen. Edwards, both of whom I know and admire."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to endorse Obama? (2008-01-17 10:13)

A press conference is scheduled for 2 pm at the statehouse in Topeka, Kansas to announce some prominent Democratic endorsements for Barack Obama.

Could one of these include Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, seen by some as a possible VP pick?

In 2004, Sebelius supported John Kerry's candidacy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack Obama on Seniors (2008-01-17 14:06)

[EMBED]



South Carolina Primary

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Kansas Dems endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-17 17:20)

Well, it turns out that Gov. Sebelius did not in fact endorse a candidate today. However, a number of Kansas state legislators including the Senate Minority Leader did announce their support for Barack Obama.



Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley of Topeka led a group of Democratic legislators today in endorsing U.S. Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois for president.

"My endorsement of Senator Barack Obama is a response to the voters whose voices at the grassroots level have spoken loud and clear as to whom they want their state's legislators to support," Hensley said.

A group of about 20 House and Senate members threw support to Obama during a news conference at the Statehouse in advance of the Feb. 5 presidential caucus for Kansas Democrats.

Senator David Haley, D-Kansas City, said the nation was ready for the kind of leadership demonstrated by Obama.

"Poll after poll, Kansans have shown they are ready for change," Haley said. "As president, Barack Obama will shift our country into a new gear and make the United States a respected leader on the world stage once again."

Obama, U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and former U.S. Sen. John Edwards are leading contenders for the party's nomination.

In Kansas, Democrats will hold presidential caucuses in each Senate district across the state. The operation is part of the national process of nominating a Democrat for president, culminating with the Democratic National Convention during August.



OBAMA 08

NEVADA CAUCUS DATE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 11:00 AM

These Nevadans
are going to make
history this
Saturday by
caucusing for
Barack Obama.

Will you join them?

Watch Their Stories and Find Your Caucus Location

The poster features a grid of nine small video thumbnails showing various people and scenes related to the caucus, including a man in a blue shirt, a person on a rooftop, a couple, and a woman speaking.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Reno Gazette-Journal chooses Obama (2008-01-17 19:05)

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Obama embodies party's vision

Nevada Democrats should caucus for Barack Obama, the freshman U.S. senator from Illinois, to represent them as the party's nominee to run for president of the United States. He has the personal characteristics and political instincts expected of the person who leads this nation.

The Democratic front-runners seeking the favor of Nevadans make strong presidential candidates. New York U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton has worked to be an excellent public servant and has aimed toward this end for the past 35 years; former North Carolina U.S. Sen. John Edwards' climb up the economic ladder has placed him in a position where he can understand and also aid the middle class.

Clinton, however, continues to struggle under the cloud of her husband, the former President Bill Clinton.

She is challenged to escape the perception that she represents the status quo and that the advisers, the bureaucracy and the baggage from the former president's administration would follow her into the White House — if she were to make it through the November election.

And, although well-meaning and concerned about the welfare of the grass-roots, Edwards does not seem to connect with the Democratic base, and he has not demonstrated the kind of bipartisanship that gets things done.

Obama embodies the political and ideological perspectives that the party projects.

He represents the platform of political unity and workable populist economics that he and party members believe will reinvigorate the economy and solve many of the other problems the nation is facing, such as questions regarding health care, immigration, war, energy independence, the tax structure and particularly the mortgage crisis. Fixing the housing market is critical to restoring our economic health.

One can fairly describe Obama's philosophical optimism and charismatic manner as too idealistic, even a tad dreamy. But he also demonstrates the courage to stand his ground where necessary, willing, for instance, to salute both President John Kennedy and President Ronald Reagan as agents of change in times when the country needed change.

Meanwhile, his background and experience have given him the insight needed to deal with the world in a different way. He knows how to listen and to respond appropriately to questions, propositions and opinions, regardless of whether he agrees.

The Democratic caucus is about looking at the candidates through a lens that is focused on the party and its goals. It also is about looking past the primary season and choosing the individual who can win in November. It must be someone who can unify the nation on domestic issues, successfully uphold its democratic ideals and restore its reputation as a global force.

Obama should be the party's choice.

Nevada Campaign Stops

Town Hall with Barack Obama in Las Vegas

Thursday, January 17, 2008 @ 4:00pm

Las Vegas, NV

Town Hall with Barack Obama in Reno

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 08:15am

Reno, NV

Town Hall with Barack Obama in Elko

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 2:30pm

Elko, NV

Rally with Barack Obama in Las Vegas

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 5:30pm

Las Vegas, NV

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



PromoteYourVote (2008-01-18 06:36:00)

Great news! Congrats to Obama. Another step forward in the campaign.

California Rep. Linda Sanchez endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-18 08:45)

Here is the blog from barackobama.com:

California Congresswoman Linda Sanchez Endorses Barack Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Friday, January 18, 2008 at 06:56 AM

Los Angeles, CA – Congresswoman Linda Sanchez today endorsed Barack Obama for President and released the following statement:



"After much consideration, I am excited to endorse Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for President. In a talented field, Barack Obama stands out as the best candidate to deliver the change that America desperately needs."

"Since I began serving in Congress five years ago, I have seen the difficulty in bringing fresh ideas to Washington, DC, and to our country. Sadly, great talent and ideas are too often dismissed because those who possessed them were seen as too idealistic, too young, or too unwilling to submit to the same old Washington way of doing things. Senator Obama is the candidate who can change that culture by mobilizing a new generation to get involved in the civic life of our country. He is reinvigorating America by showing us that we all have a stake – and a say – in our democracy and our country's future."

"America faces economic and foreign policy challenges so great that no single person or group of political insiders can solve them. We need to change that. Barack Obama has already shown he can deliver by bringing people together."

"Throughout my career, both before, and in, Congress, I have fought for working families like my own. Families who are working hard, yet still struggling to make ends meet, need a president who knows their struggle. I believe that with Barack Obama, they will have a president that doesn't just understand the difficulties they face, but will stand up and fight for them."

"In the coming days and weeks, I will be talking with my fellow Californians about why I think it's important we vote for Barack Obama on February 5. Beyond that, I look forward to a future of working with President Obama to deliver the change America needs."

Congresswoman Sanchez is serving in her third term representing California's 39th Congressional District which includes parts of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and other communities in Los Angeles County. Sanchez is the co-founder of the House Labor and Working Families Caucus, and she serves on both the Education and Labor Committee as well as the Foreign Affairs Committee. She is the first Latina to serve on the House Judiciary Committee. Prior to coming to Congress, Sanchez served as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the Orange County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

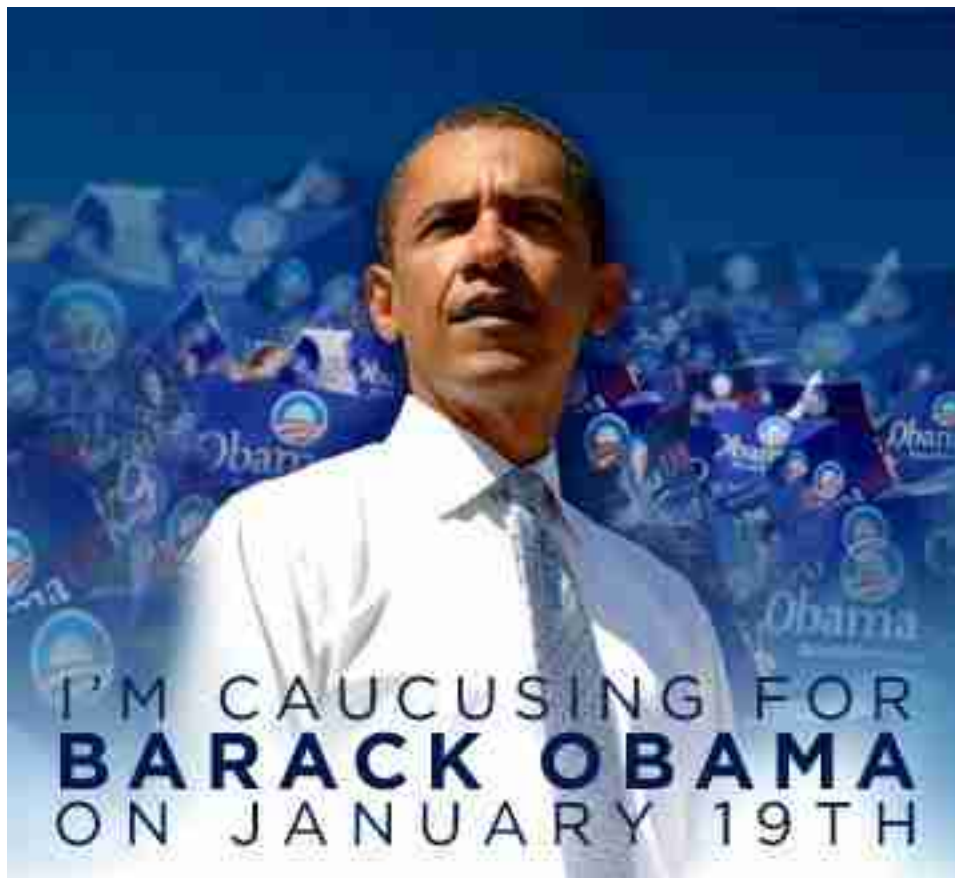
Videos: Campaigning in Nevada (2008-01-18 09:25)

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama and John Kerry in Las Vegas

[EMBED]

Young voters energize campaign





South Carolina Primary

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Michelle Obama: Who's out there (2008-01-18 10:58)

Paul,



turn in this process.

In 24 hours, folks here in Nevada will head into their caucuses for their

But right now, all across the country, thousands of Americans are taking their seat at the table and shaping the outcome of this election.

One of the more than 100,000 donors who have given in 2008 is promising to give again if you make a donation today. We are building up our organization to compete in all fifty states, and your gift will help us reach our goal of 125,000 donors for the year by tomorrow.

Your generosity over the past year was essential in getting us this far. Make a matching donation now and double your impact:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise2008>

When you make a matching donation, you'll get to meet the person who is doubling your impact. You'll be matched with a real person, and be able to exchange notes as part of the process.

The stories of real people I've met across the country keep me inspired and energized throughout this process. I had a great day yesterday, traveling across the state with Senator John Kerry and talking to folks in community centers and church basements about the issues that are important to them.

It's those personal stories that motivate Barack and all of us to work as hard as we can to bring about change. We got into this race to bring people back into the process, to help reconnect politics with people's real lives, and it's inspiring to feel that happening.

Here are some of the stories people shared when they had their donations doubled by supporters like you:

Welcome to Barack Obama's network of enthusiastic supporters throughout this country! This is my 4th time donating to Obama's primary election campaign, and each time I've done so, I've gone through the process of reaffirming my conviction that he is our best option to lead this country because of the way that he is able to get people from so many different backgrounds to get behind him and stand together for common causes that affect us all. ... This is the first time that I've been excited about and involved in a presidential campaign, and I'm very happy that you have decided to become involved, too.

- Aja in Illinois

I have not been active in politics since the '60s, when I was very involved as a college student in Senator Robert Kennedy's campaign. I am particularly moved by Barack Obama's ability to bridge the gaps between my generation, now in our own 60's, and the current generation of young voters who have not demonstrated a passion for political activity during the past several presidential elections. Your support is both an acknowledgment of the achievements of the Obama campaign in inspiring this new interest among America's young people, and an investment to assure that their hopes and dreams for the future have an opportunity to be fulfilled through their continuing participation in the work of our democracy during and after an Obama presidency.

- Warren in California

Maybe you're like me. I'm far from an idealist and I'm known as the Practical One amongst my friends and relatives, but I'm ready for a change - and not a little one. I'm supporting Barack Obama because I want not just America, but the world to change. He's convinced me that he can do that better than any other candidate. ... I had been holding back on contributing, but felt I had to make a commitment now at this critical time. I hope you do the same and contribute today.

- Tiffany F.

They're writing to people like you.

Right now, you could give for the first time in 2008 and help us reach 125,000 donors for the year by tomorrow. Make your matching donation now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise2008>

Our future is in our own hands, so we need to do some dreaming.

Together we can send a message to our children about who they are, who they can become, and who we want to be as a nation. And that message will be heard around the world.

The stakes couldn't be higher – for our party, for our country, and for the hopes and dreams of all our families.

We are ready for a better, stronger day. Please act now.

Michelle



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama delights in starring role (2008-01-18 12:15)

Michelle Obama delights in starring role

Suzanne Goldenberg in Las Vegas

Friday January 18, 2008

Guardian Unlimited

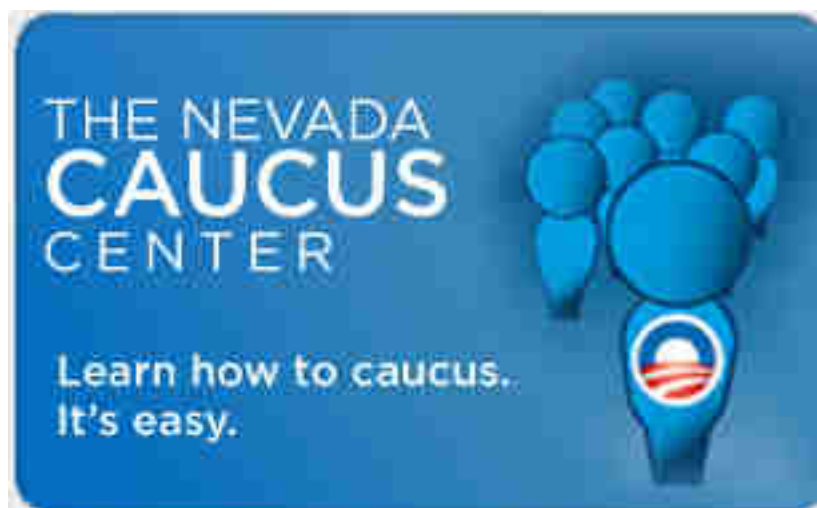




Michelle Obama signs autographs after a town hall meeting in Las Vegas. Photograph: Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

The woman who is introducing Michelle Obama is so excited and nervous she can barely get through the first few sentences. Star power it seems is something Michelle Obama enjoys in her own right.

The gathering was supposed to be an intimate affair - 50 or 60 people, mostly women, gathered in the club house of a condominium complex to celebrate Michelle Obama's 44th birthday yesterday. There was a cake baked in the shape of a map of Nevada and small cupcakes dotted with candy confetti. Annie Moore, a campaign volunteer, who shares a birthday with Obama, was given the honour of introducing her.

Article continues ➡



South Carolina Primary 


Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Fairy tale? (2008-01-18 12:59)

[EMBED]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICDU6S-qi7A>

This video was made in response to Bill Clinton's assertion that the Obama campaign is a "fairy tale."

Music:

Dream On by Aerosmith

Nevada Campaign Stops

Town Hall with Barack Obama in Elko

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 2:30pm

Elko, NV

Rally with Barack Obama in Las Vegas

Friday, January 18, 2008 @ 5:30pm

Las Vegas, NV

Action Center

Obama Mobile



OBAMA 08

NEVADA CAUCUS DATE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 11:00 AM

These Nevadans
are going to make
history this
Saturday by
caucusing for
Barack Obama.

Will you join them?

Watch Their Stories and Find Your Caucus Location

The advertisement features a grid of nine small video thumbnails showing various people and scenes related to the campaign, including a man in a suit, a person on a stage, a man at a desk, a man in a vest, a couple, a computer screen, and a woman.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Barack Obama on Veterans (2008-01-18 14:03)

Plan to keep our Sacred Trust with Veterans

"Keeping faith with those who serve must always be a core American value and a cornerstone of American patriotism. Because America's commitment to its servicemen and women begins at enlistment, and it must never end."

— Barack Obama, Speech in Kansas City, MO, August 21, 2007

At a Glance

- A Sacred Trust
- Help for Returning Service Members
- Improved Mental Health Treatment

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

The Problem

Wounded Troops Suffer: The Walter Reed scandal showed that we don't always provide returning service members with the care they deserve.

Veterans Budget Shortfalls: In 2005, a multi-billion dollar VA funding shortfall required Congress to step in and bail out the system.

Benefits Bureaucracy is Broken: There are currently more than 400,000 claims pending with the Veterans Benefits Administration. VA error rates have grown to more than 100,000 cases a year.

There is Shortage of Care for PTSD: Veterans are coming home with record levels of combat stress, but we are not adequately providing for them.

Barack Obama's Plan

A Sacred Trust

Barack Obama believes America has a sacred trust with our veterans. He is committed to creating a 21st Century Department of Veterans' Affairs that provides the care and benefits our nation's veterans deserve.

- **Allow All Veterans Back into the VA:** One of Obama's first acts will be reversing the 2003 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans, which has denied care to a million veterans.
- **Strengthen VA Care:** Obama will make the VA a leader of national health care reform so that veterans get the best care possible. He will improve care for polytrauma vision impairment, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, aging, and women's health.

- **Combat Homelessness among Our Nation's Veterans:** Obama will establish a national "zero tolerance" policy for veterans falling into homelessness by expanding proven programs and launching innovative services to prevent veterans from falling into homelessness.
- **Fight Veterans Employment Discrimination:** Obama will crack down on employers who commit job discrimination against guardsmen and reservists.

Help for Returning Service Members

Obama will improve the quality of health care for veterans, rebuild the VA's broken benefits system, and combat homelessness among veterans.

- **Ensure a Seamless Transition:** Obama will demand that the military and the VA coordinate to provide a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life.
- **Fully Fund VA Medical Care:** Barack Obama will fully fund the VA so it has all the resources it needs to serve the veterans who need it, when they need it. Obama will establish a world-class VA Planning Division to avoid future budget shortfalls.
- **Fix the Benefits Bureaucracy:** Obama will hire additional claims workers, and improve training and accountability so that VA benefit decisions are rated fairly and consistently. He also will transform the paper benefit claims process to an electronic one to reduce errors and improve timeliness.

Improved Mental Health Treatment

Obama will improve mental health treatment for troops and veterans suffering from combat-related psychological injuries.


- **Improve Mental Health Treatment:** Obama will improve mental health care at every stage of military service. He will recruit more health professionals, improve screening, offer more support to families and make PTSD benefits claims fairer.
- **Improve Care for Traumatic Brain Injury:** Obama will establish standards of care for Traumatic Brain Injury, the signature injury of the Iraq war.
- **Expand Vet Centers:** Obama will expand and strengthen Vet Centers to provide more counseling for vets and their families.

Barack Obama's Record

Record of Advocacy: As a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Obama passed legislation to improve care and slash red tape for our wounded warriors recovering at places like Walter Reed. He passed laws to help homeless veterans and offered an innovative solution to prevent at-risk veterans from falling into homelessness. Obama led a bipartisan effort in the Senate to try to halt the military's unfair practice of discharging service members for having a service-connected psychological injury. He fought for fair treatment of Illinois veterans' claims and forced the VA to conduct an unprecedented outreach campaign to disabled veterans with lower than-average benefits. Obama passed legislation to stop a VA review of closed PTSD cases that could have led to a reduction in veterans' benefits. He passed an amendment to ensure that all service members returning from Iraq are properly screened for traumatic brain injuries. He introduced legislation to direct the VA and Pentagon to fix disjointed records systems and improve outreach to members of the National Guard and Reserves.

Read the Speech

Read the Speech

 Read the Plan

Join Veterans for Obama:

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Obama Mobile

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Harvard Crimsom picks Barack Obama (2008-01-18 14:44)

The Harvard Crimsom, the daily campus newspaper of Harvard University, endorsed Barack Obama's nomination yesterday.



Obama for Democratic Nominee

Barack Obama will bring intelligence, sound policy, and change to the White House

Published On Thursday, January 17, 2008 11:44 PM

By THE CRIMSON STAFF

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Democrats in 22 states, including Massachusetts, will go to the polls to select the Democratic Party's nominee for President of the United States. We hope they select Sen. Barack H. Obama. He has won our unmitigated support because he has the experience, policy proposals, and vision required not only to be president, but to fundamentally alter the way our broken political system functions.

Obama has committed his life to furthering the public good. From starting as a community organizer, to working as a constitutional lawyer and law professor, to serving as a Ill. State Senator, and, finally, as an United States Senator, Obama has achieved before the age of fifty what many would aspire to do in a lifetime. The judgment and perspective he has acquired in these roles are qualities that are necessary in a leader, particularly at the highest levels of government, where elected officials are inundated with questions with profound and lasting repercussions.

On issues of substance, Obama has assembled an impressive array of policies that demonstrate careful thought about the immediate problems facing our country today and those that we will encounter in the long term. Although we do not agree with all of Obama's proposals, every one of his plans is informed, carefully crafted, and thoughtfully considered.

Obama's healthcare program, for instance, guarantees universal healthcare for minors but allows adults to choose whether they are covered. Although we believe that complete universal healthcare is an important policy for our country to aspire to, Obama's plan reaches towards that goal. Its significant efforts to subsidize and provide and universal access to all Americans is unparalleled in the Democratic field, and, perhaps, represents the most pragmatic solution.

While all the major Democratic candidates propose changes in the tax code that will work to rollback tax cuts instituted by President George W. Bush, Obama's proposals stand out because they are targeted to

varied and specific populations that need relief the most. These include tax reform for the middle class, tax relief for the poor, universal mortgage credits, tax credits up to \$4,000 for college students, and the elimination of income tax for senior citizens earning less than \$50,000 per year. This type of targeted, creative relief is exactly what America needs.

Obama also has a practical approach to dealing with immigration. His proposals adhere to the basic formula we believe is best: reducing shoring up borders and reducing the incentives to immigrate illegally while bringing undocumented workers already in the country out of the shadows with a demanding path to citizenship. While Obama is in favor of increasing border enforcement beyond what we feel is necessary—for instance he voted for a border fence—we recognize that limiting the flow of illegal immigrants is a political prerequisite to immigration reform. Finally, we support Obama's commitment to expanding the number of high-skill immigrants to our country through to the H-1B visa program.

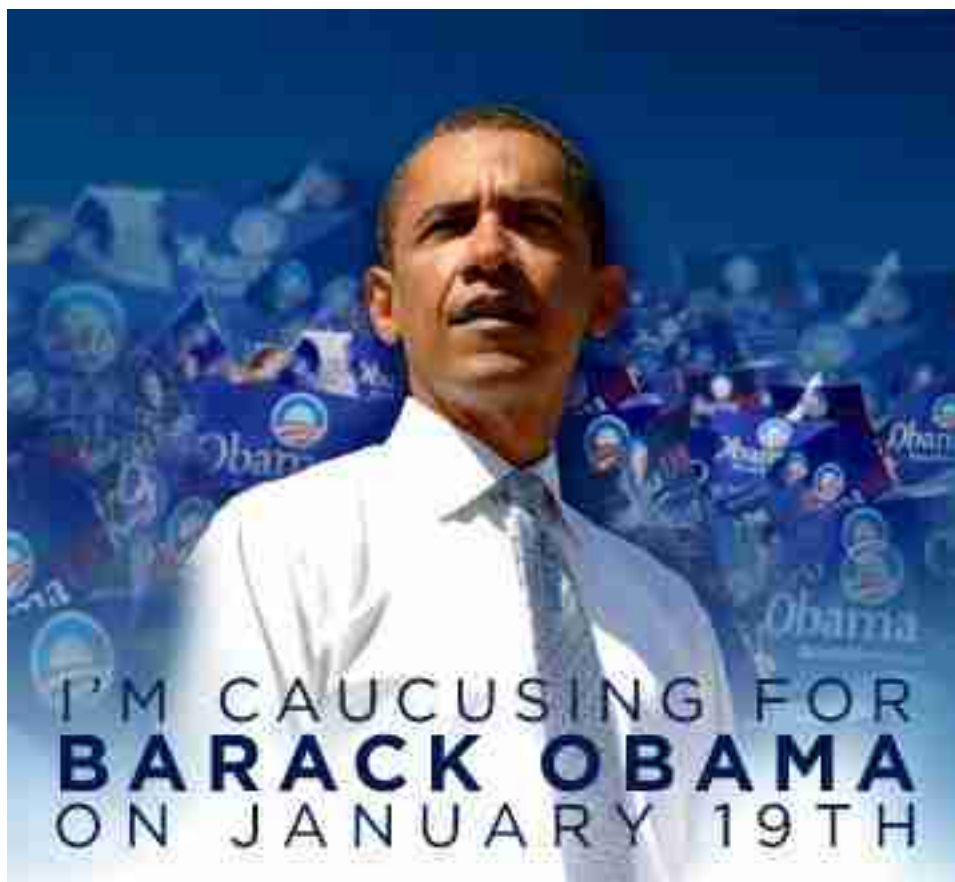
To help reduce carbon emissions and help fight climate change, Obama proposes a cap-and-trade system and the corresponding reduction of emissions to 80 percent below the 1990 levels by 2050. Vaulting the U.S. into a leadership position on climate change is a goal that should figure prominently in any presidential candidate's decision-making. Obama has shown that he cares about the issue and will take it to the White House as a high priority if elected.

Obama cares deeply about education, and he has a holistic plan to reform the entire system, from infant healthcare through higher education. Highlights of his plan include reforming No Child Left Behind, addressing the high rate of dropouts, and quadrupling funding for Early Head Start programs that form the youngest generation of students. We believe Obama's emphasis on increased funding for public education and his tax credit for higher education are prime steps to take in addressing our nation's educational woes.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, we wholeheartedly support Obama's opposition to the war in Iraq. Obama has consistently taken a stand against the war since its inception, and his commitment to bringing the troops home is commendable. Obama has the vision and know how to lead our nation out of the conflagration in Iraq as smoothly as possible and in a way that begins to restore our international standing and credibility.

Various critics have voiced concerns that Obama is too ambitious and inexperienced to be the next president of the United States. We disagree. Obama's candidacy reflects a lack of political maneuvering and instead is based on a desire to see dramatic change in the political system. And what Sen. Obama might lack in political experience, he makes up with sound judgment, intelligence, charisma, and a personable and bipartisan demeanor. Furthermore, in office he will surround himself with some of the smartest and most experienced advisors in the world.

Obama represents an opportunity for a Democratic nominee who represents the value of service, intelligence, and judgment, and, most of all, an opportunity for real change, unburdened by favors owed and ideals lost. He deserves your vote.



South Carolina Primary

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Roland Martin: Voters win as caucus challenge knocked down (2008-01-18 15:21)



(CNN) – This year's presidential contest already has sparked massive voter interest in Iowa and New Hampshire, and for those of us who are embarrassed by America's low voter turnout the last few election cycles, it is something wonderful to watch.



Roland S. Martin says that special interests trying to score political points shouldn't keep Americans from voting.

So thank goodness a federal judge in Nevada didn't do damage to this excitement by siding with the state's teachers union, which filed a shocking lawsuit eight days before Saturday's caucuses in a clear effort to dilute the voting strength of working-class people.

When Democratic officials in the Western state wanted to have their voice heard in the presidential primary season, they decided nearly a year ago to create nine at-large caucus sites so thousands of workers in the gambling hotels along the Las Vegas Strip could cast ballots.

Because they work 24 hours a day and Saturday is the busiest day of the week for the state's biggest economic engine, they would have no shot at going home to caucus and get back to work in time.


The Democratic National Committee approved the plan in May, and virtually nothing was said about the changes by anyone.

That is until the 60,000-strong Culinary Workers Union Local 226 endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president.

The largest and most organized union in the state, the Culinary Workers Union could play a large role in determining who wins the state. All the Democratic candidates fought hard for its endorsement as well as the vast resources the union pours into campaigns. Its decision was seen as a huge boost to Obama and a major blow to Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Then, three days later, the 28,000-member Nevada State Education Association chose to get its lawyers involved, filing the suit on behalf of six state residents. The rationale? The at-large caucuses would give the casino employees an unfair advantage since other workers couldn't caucus at their jobs.

The teachers union hasn't officially endorsed anyone, but several of its high-ranking officers are backing Clinton, and the suit was seen as an effort to squash her opponent's biggest political "get."

The senator from New York and former President Clinton steadfastly argued they had nothing to do with the suit, that it was all up by the teachers, but in their talking points, they were siding with the teachers' suit.  Watch as ex-President Clinton lashes out at a reporter over the lawsuit »

In fact, after the ruling, the Clinton campaign said: "While we were not involved in this lawsuit and have always said that we would play by the rules that we're given, it has always been our hope that every Nevadan should have equal access and opportunity to participate in the caucus. Make no mistake – the current system that inhibits some shift workers from being able to participate, while allowing others to do so, would seem to benefit other campaigns. More importantly it is unfair."

Here's the rub, and it boils down to one thing – politics.

The teachers union and the Clinton campaign said *nothing* about these caucuses before the Obama endorsement. Clinton officials were holding out hope they would get it, and if so, those at-large caucuses

would be like holding an ace up their sleeves on Election Day. Do you actually think their "fairness" argument would have been made with the endorsement? Yeah, right.

Let me be clear: This is not about Hillary Clinton, Obama or even John Edwards. It's about democracy, and wanting people to do what far too many Americans take for granted: vote.

I'm tired of these two-faced politicians and Democratic-leaning hacks run down Republicans with charges of voter suppression, and the Democrats and one of their biggest base of supporters – a teachers union – turn around and do the same.

Frankly, I don't care who the culinary union backed. If it had backed Clinton and the Obama or Edward camps encouraged this stunt, I would be all over them as well.

Remember, the Clintons joined a chorus of Democrats who yelled, kicked and screamed against Republicans about alleged massive voter fraud and voter suppression in 2000 and 2004. (That was a bit disingenuous considering Vice President Al Gore was trying to get military ballots thrown out to help his cause in Florida in 2000.)

These kinds of pathetic actions by so-called believers in democracy are why so many people are sick and tired of politics. We have witnessed both parties claim on one hand they want an open voting system that encourages, not discourages, people from voting.

Americans love to criticize elections in other nations that we don't think are done aboveboard. We tell Pakistan that there should be fair and free elections, and we denounce Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe for his strong-armed tactics to keep the opposition party away from the polls.

Is my comparison too harsh? No. They do it with guns. We do it with lawyers.

It's time that we, the people, let unions, political parties or anyone else know that we will fight like the dickens for the right to vote and won't be obstructed by some special interest looking to score a cheap political point.

✕

✕

IFRAME: 826554

Roland S. Martin is a nationally award-winning journalist and CNN contributor. Martin is studying to receive his master's degree in Christian communications at Louisiana Baptist University, and he is the author of "Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith." You can read more of his columns at <http://www.rolandmartin.com/>.

Action Center
Obama Mobile

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕



Sen. Barack Obama discusses the mortgage meltdown in Las Vegas and how government needs to stand more for ordinary citizens rather than Wall Street moguls. Barack is also shown at Stand for Change rallies firing up his supporters. He adopts a "Vegas" style in keeping with the audience cracking a few jokes at the expense of his opponents!

[EMBED]

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Action Center
Obama Mobile



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama tackles housing crisis in Las Vegas (2008-01-18 16:39)



In 24 hours, folks here in Nevada will see Sen. Barack Obama discuss the mortgage meltdown in Las Vegas and how government needs to stand more for ordinary citizens rather than Wall Street moguls.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Action Center
Obama Mobile

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Barack wins first-ever Nickelodeon Kids' Primary (2008-01-18 17:08)

Sen. Barack Obama received 46 % of the 80,000 votes in the "Kids Pick the President" primary held by Nickelodeon.

The votes are in and the kids of America have spoken. Senators John McCain and Barack Obama have won Nickelodeon's first-ever kids' presidential primary election. Nick News' award-winning journalist and host Linda Ellerbee will formally announce the results tonight, Friday, Jan. 18, at 8:00 p.m. (EST/PST) on Nickelodeon.

[...]

"What better way to explain to kids how the primary system works than to actually hold a primary for them?" said Ellerbee, Host and Executive Producer of Nick News. "This year we have given kids a voice

early on and allowed them to become part of the election process from the very beginning. I am thrilled to see that so many kids have come out to exercise their right to vote.”



X

X

X



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Rep. George Miller: Why I support Senator Obama (2008-01-18 18:04)


From barackobama.com/blog:

Why I support Senator Obama

by Representative George Miller

, Friday, January 18, 2008 at 03:32 PM

Rep. George Miller (D-CA) has represented the 7th District of California in the East Bay of San Francisco since 1975 and serves as chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

 I have served in the Congress a long time and I have seen a lot of different people throw their hats into the presidential ring. I am really excited by what I see in Senator Barack Obama and I am proud to support him for president. The energy and enthusiasm he brings to the democratic process is exciting. But more than that – it is necessary to strengthen our country and move us beyond the very harmful and deeply cynical politics of George W. Bush.

Our country desperately needs to move in a new direction and I feel strongly that Barack Obama has the experience, the courage, and the passion to lead us there. Obama is the candidate who is most committed to making positive change for Americans today and the generations ahead. Californians concerned with health care and education, with ending the war, and with restoring our justice system have every reason to support Barack Obama. Californians who care about unifying our great nation have every reason to support Barack Obama. And Californians who want to continue to bring young people into our political process have every reason to support Barack Obama.

Obama is bringing the country together, tackling the issues that matter most to working people, women, youth, and to the future of the planet. He is bold and he has vision. He is ready to lead and ready to govern. The question for the rest of us is whether we are ready to do the work that is necessary to get Barack Obama elected president. I am ready. And I believe Californians are ready. I share his hope and his burning desire for change.

If you're from California, check out CA.BarackObama.com for info on how you can get involved locally and help Barack win in the Golden State.

Action Center
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Nevada Caucus – 11 am , Saturday, Jan. 19



South Carolina Primary

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Barack Obama on the Family (2008-01-18 20:24)

From barackobama.com:

Strengthening Families and Communities

“U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) preached with grace and gratitude about fatherhood to a crowd of 4,000 at Christ Universal Temple, an important church in Chicago’s African-American community. . . . Obama’s tone Sunday was respectful, his words colorblind. . . . Pressed on why he risked this sermon, with its potential for backlash from African-Americans, Obama said he knew his audience understood that many fathers make enormous sacrifices. . . . His words did, though, apply to many more people than those seated before him in church: fathers of all races, senators and laborers alike.”

— Chicago Tribune, Editorial, June 22, 2005

At a Glance

- Promote Responsible Fatherhood
- Help Low-Income Workers Climb the Job Market
- Support Low-Income Families
- Fight Mortgage Fraud

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

The Problem

Strong families raise successful children and keep communities together. While Senator Obama does not believe that we can simply legislate healthy families, good parenting skills or economic success, he does believe we can eliminate roadblocks that parents face and provide tools to help them succeed. A husband and father of two, Senator Obama has promoted strong families in the Senate.

Barack Obama’s Plan

Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Since 1960, the number of American children without fathers has quadrupled, from 6 million to more than 24 million. A healthy relationship between children and their fathers is important to good development. Children without fathers in their lives are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. Senator Obama introduced the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act with Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) to remove some of the government penalties on married families and support fathers already trying to do the right thing, while also cracking down on men trying to avoid their parental responsibilities. The bill provides fathers with an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. It also would increase child support enforcement and strengthen domestic violence prevention services.

Help Low-Income Workers Climb the Job Market

Transitional jobs are a promising way to help chronically unemployed people break into the workplace. This approach places participants into temporary, subsidized wage-paying jobs. It also offers mentoring and social services designed

to address work-blocking problems like personal and family conflicts. Once they find entry-level work, low-income workers often are unable to break into middle-class jobs. Bridge programs can help by partnering the federal government with employers and community-based organizations to identify job opportunities, develop customized training programs, and place low-income employees in better jobs. Senator Obama introduced legislation to devote \$50 million for transitional and bridge employment programs for hard-to-employ groups like homeless veterans, children aging out of foster care, and people returning to communities after a time in prison.

Support Low-Income Families

The Child Tax Credit allows parents to receive \$1,000 per child and has been an important financial resource for working families. Unfortunately, the credit is skewed so that many families who need it the most cannot get it. Because of artificially high income limits that are indexed to inflation every year, parents that work full time at minimum wage are not eligible for the credit. As a result, nearly 17 million low-income children get less than the full credit. Senator Obama worked with Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) to introduce legislation lowering the income limit so that 600,000 more families can benefit. Senator Obama also introduced legislation to temporarily expand the Child Tax Credit for low-income parents affected by Hurricane Katrina. Senator Obama succeeded in passing legislation to extend tax credits for military families by allowing service members deployed to war zones to apply their non-taxable combat pay toward the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Fight Mortgage Fraud

The FBI is predicting that mortgage fraud may become a criminal epidemic. In these elaborate schemes, criminals use identity theft or face-to-face scams to gain control of victims' homes. The offenders then apply for hefty mortgage loans, take the cash, then disappear, robbing homeowners of their property and threatening the financial health of the most vulnerable members of society. Senator Obama introduced the first federal bill to combat mortgage fraud. The STOP FRAUD Act criminalizes mortgage fraud, authorizes \$10 million more for anti-mortgage fraud programs and requires the FBI to update bankers on fraudulent activity in a formal, systematic way. The bill also would authorize increased federal funding for mortgage counseling.

Action Center
Obama Mobile

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En espanol

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Atlanta Journal-Constitution endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-18 21:32)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, a daily newspaper out of Atlanta, Georgia, has endorsed Barack Obama as the Democratic nominee.

For Democrats, Obama the pick
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 01/20/08

According to a recent Gallup poll, almost three out of four Americans are dissatisfied with how things are going in our country, with just 24 percent believing we're headed in the right direction. The deep discontent reflected in those numbers have made Democrats optimistic about their party's chances of electing one of their own to the White House in November.

However, the situation represents more than a mere opportunity; it imposes an obligation on the Democratic Party to offer the country a candidate who can inspire the American people, a candidate capable of addressing the many critical challenges, foreign and domestic, that will confront our next president and commander in chief. COMING NEXT WEEK

The AJC editorial board will publish its endorsement in the Georgia Republican primary next Sunday.

At times of crisis, this country has always been blessed with strong, even visionary, leadership. But that has not been true for the last seven years. To the contrary, on almost every front we are suffering the consequences of slapdash, divisive leadership.

Economically, the country appears to be sliding into a recession; internationally, our reputation on the world stage has perhaps never been lower. Militarily, our men and women in uniform have been burdened with responsibilities that they lack the manpower to carry out over the long term, and with the aging of the Baby Boom generation and a soaring national debt, our financial obligations likewise threaten to overwhelm the resources we have committed to meet them.

In Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama, the Democrats offer Georgia voters three candidates with the experience, leadership and character to begin to turn this country around. However, only two of those candidates now harbor realistic hopes for the nomination.

Edwards, a former senator from neighboring North Carolina, has used his campaign to voice the growing anxiety and fear of many in America's working and middle classes. It's an important message, as recent days have confirmed, and with economic troubles ahead, the issues that Edwards has highlighted could prove central in determining the outcome of the general election.

However, judging from the reaction of primary voters, Edwards' impassioned, crusading style may be better suited to a House or Senate race than a race for the presidency. He remains a distant third in most polls, and his hopes for the nomination no longer seem realistic.

That leaves Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. On questions of policy, not much separates the two. Their approaches toward health care, tax policy, foreign relations and the suppression of Islamic terrorism vary only at the margins.

(In fact, that similarity probably accounts for the dismaying pettiness of the disputes between the Obama and Clinton camps in recent days. Campaigns have to argue, and with little of real import separating them, they are now arguing over the little things and in some cases the imaginary things.)

The question, then, is which of the two candidates would be more able to implement the policies they agree upon.

Throughout the campaign, Clinton has argued that she has the better grasp of official Washington, which is probably true. Through hard work and intelligence, she has built an admirable record of success as a senator that has impressed even some Republican colleagues.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true as well — official Washington also has a better grasp on Clinton.

Perhaps burned by her experience in her husband's administration, she has too often chosen to play within the Washington system rather than dare to challenge its assumptions. And that's not the kind of leadership needed at the moment.

The prime example of that instinct was probably Clinton's vote last year in favor of naming Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist group. While that stance kept her in good standing in certain Washington circles, it also fed what at the time was a rising push toward military confrontation with Iran that was

unnecessary and dangerous. Even voters willing to set aside Clinton's earlier vote giving President Bush authority to invade Iraq were taken aback when she seemed to have repeated that mistake.

For reasons largely outside her control, Clinton is also one of the more reviled figures in American politics. That sentiment is unfair and irrational, and she has done little to deserve it. But it exists nonetheless, and it would limit the amount of public support she would be able to rally as president.

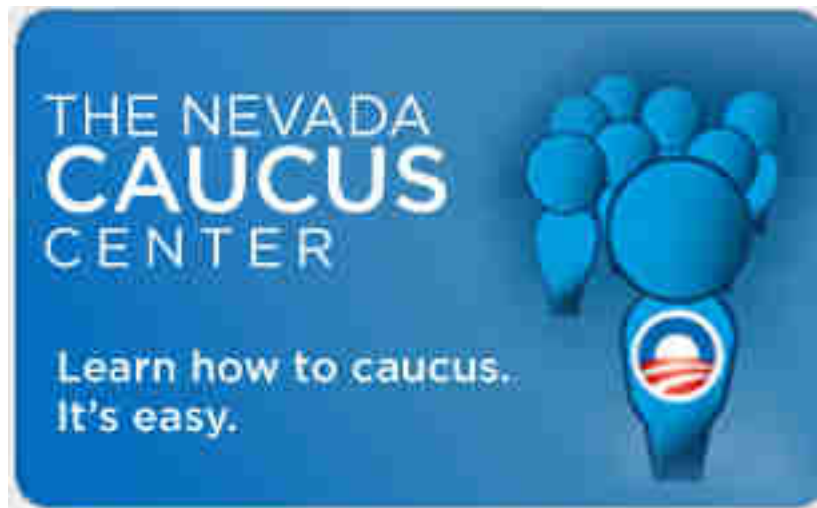
Obama, on the other hand, has demonstrated an appeal across many of the lines that have divided America. That is a critically important attribute, because the scale of changes that must be made to correct America's course cannot be accomplished with majorities of 50 percent plus one.

Different moments in history require different types of leaders, and part of the art of picking a president is matching the person to the challenge and to the time. So while both Clinton and Obama would make very good presidents, Obama is the person; this is his time.

— **Jay Bookman** and Cynthia Tucker for the editorial board

Action Center
Obama Mobile





South Carolina Primary

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

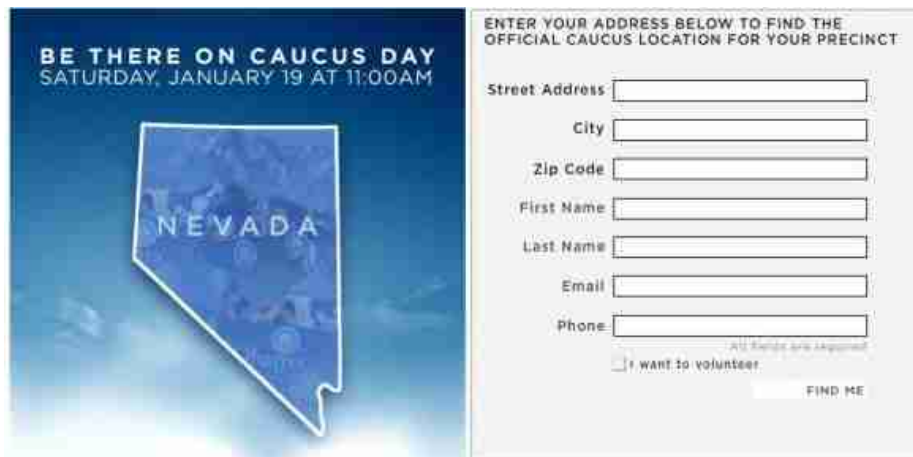
Nevadans: Find Your Caucus Location (2008-01-19 00:41)

From nevada.barackobama.com:

Nevadans: Find Your Caucus Location

by Zach Edwards

Friday, January 18, 2008 at 11:12 PM



BE THERE ON CAUCUS DAY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 11:00AM

NEVADA

ENTER YOUR ADDRESS BELOW TO FIND THE OFFICIAL CAUCUS LOCATION FOR YOUR PRECINCT

Street Address

City

Zip Code

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone

All Fields are Required

☐ I WANT TO volunteer

FIND ME

Click to find your caucus location

Three Easy Things You Can Do to Make Change Happen

1. Caucus TODAY January 19th at 11:00 AM. You must be present and on time to participate!
2. Get directions to your local caucus location by calling 1-888-OBAMA-NV (1-888-622-6268)
3. Double your power. Bring a neighbor to caucus!

Important Caucus Information:

1. You can register to vote AT YOUR CAUCUS.
2. If you are currently registered non-partisan or Republican, you can change your registration AT YOUR CAUCUS and participate.
3. You may bring your child or call us for help with child care.
4. If you need a ride, call us at 1-888-OBAMA-NV (1-888-622-6268)
5. If you are 17 but will be 18 by November 4, 2008, you can caucus!
6. Nevada college students are welcome too!



Stand for Change Today!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Varied endorsements for Barack Obama (2008-01-19 08:47)

Sen. Barack Obama is receiving support from across the diverse spectrum of the nation. Doreen Yellow Bird, a Native American columnist backs the Illinois senator's candidacy:

Finally, a woman or a black person may be president. I like them both; however, Barack Obama is my choice. Hillary Clinton does have her forces and will be hard to beat, however. And that will be a story for the year to come. Time to stoke the fire and start a new kettle of events for 2008.

LGBT advocate Dr. Jerry L. Cade, who is co-founder and co-medical director of Nevada AIDS Research supports Obama.

For many reasons, I believe that the best hope for the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities is Senator Barack Obama. In fact, the best hope for this country and the planet is Senator Barack Obama.

[...]

Fighting HIV/AIDS needs forethought, leadership, and courage. We need a president who is willing to take the lead in AIDS prevention and treatment. We cannot wait for someone to come around to supporting an issue once everyone else is already there. We need a creative, visionary leader who will implement whatever changes are needed to prevent further HIV infection. We need Senator Obama.

Script writer, speech writer and Huffington Post columnist Matt Littman writes:

Ask yourself this:

Of the current candidates on both sides of the aisle, which candidate would make you proudest if they were to become President of the United States?

Which candidate would best help us turn the page on the political wars of the last 28 years?

Which candidate would best put the Bush years behind us and begin a new era?

Which candidate will have an open government, and not hold secret meetings with the energy titans, with the pharmaceutical companies, or with the health care lobbyists?

Which candidate has the confidence and the will to end the era of torture and spying on American citizens?

Which candidate will speak to our better nature?

When you consider these issues, and weigh the candidates remaining on both the Democratic and Republican sides, there really is no choice, is there? Barack Obama is the best candidate to bring about the changes that we need.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sacramento Bee endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-19 09:26)

The Sacramento Bee announced its endorsement of Barack Obama today.



"The Bee Recommends Obama"

"He could bridge political divides"

It is beginning to look as if the Democratic Party will break historic barriers this year no matter how the party's contest for the presidential nomination concludes. If the nominee is Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York or Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, as seems likely, either a woman or an African American will be a major party's nominee for the first time.

The two leading candidates give California Democrats and independents voting Feb. 5 an interesting choice. Both have been senators for a relatively short time, but both also have other attributes that give them unique perspectives on the country and on the job they seek.

As first lady for eight years, Clinton served as a serious policy adviser to the president, not only on health care, where she famously failed, but on other matters as well. On free trade and reforming welfare, she and Bill Clinton faced down their friends and allies to do what was right, and Hillary Clinton is still paying the price today with some in the left wing of her party.

The Clinton years were tainted by scandal, and Hillary Clinton took her share of hits for those problems. Some were deserved; some were not. Dealing with the constant accusations no doubt toughened her. That toughness is one thing we admire most about her.

But those battle scars are also evidence of a troubling trend in American politics that would likely only intensify if Clinton were to become president. Since her husband's first term, politics has become increasingly polarized, the partisan fights more brutal. The Clintons have been both aggressors and victims in those wars.

Barack Obama, in contrast, would be a fresh face with a new approach and no old scores to settle. His ascension would represent a clean break with the generation that has fought and re-fought the Vietnam War and the cultural upheavals that wracked the 1960s.

As a former community organizer, civil rights lawyer and state legislator, Obama is familiar with real issues people face, and he has worked to solve them on the ground. As president, he says, he would cross party lines to find solutions to the nation's most vexing problems, from health care to global warming. There is reason to believe he could do that. His inspiring personal story and his communications skills could nudge Americans of all ages, but especially the young, to give more of themselves to aid the less fortunate in their communities.

Unlike Clinton, Obama was an early opponent of the war in Iraq, because he thought it was a strategic blunder that would only hurt the United States. His credibility on that issue would position him well to end the occupation quickly while also giving him the flexibility to extend it if necessary to avoid shedding the blood of more innocent Iraqis.

Obama's lack of experience at the highest levels of government might lead to mistakes. But that risk is smaller, in our view, than the benefit of moving on from the Bushes and the Clintons, who have been in the White House for longer than some young voters have been alive. That is why Obama is the best choice for the Democratic nomination for president.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-01-19 09:51)

Nevada's Elko Daily Free Press picked Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.



"Free Press Endorses Romney, Obama"

...We finally concluded former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Illinois Sen. Barack Obama are the most likely to be successful at solving Nevada's major issues that have been festering under a dysfunctionally divided Congress.

...The Democratic candidates all plan to withdraw from Iraq as quickly as possible and dramatically increase spending on social programs...

...However, we believe the one most likely to accomplish his goals is Sen. Barack Obama.

...We urge all eligible voters to get involved in the caucuses and to stand up for their beliefs.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Nevada Caucus Today (2008-01-19 10:20)



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama finishes strong second in Nevada (2008-01-19 14:40)

Sen. Barack Obama beat expectations, unless you consider a single poll last week, and will probably come in about 5 percentage points behind Hillary Clinton in Nevada.

Hillary was strongly supported by the Democratic establishment. It is one of her strongest states next to New York. If Barack wins South Carolina, I think he will win the nomination. I've been saying since April 2007 that SC and the South is the key to an Obama victory and I still think this is the case:

The Importance of the African American Vote

Obama Campaign Strategy

Should Obama target the South?

South Carolina Primary

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Upcoming Obama Events in South Carolina (2008-01-19 16:19)

Rock Hill Town Hall Meeting with MA Gov. Deval Patrick, former MS Gov. Ray Mabus, and former Gov. Hodges

Sunday, January 20, 2008 @ 2:15pm

Rock Hill, SC

A Conversation with Michelle Obama

Sunday, January 20, 2008 @ 2:30pm

Columbia, SC

Stand Together for Change with Barack Obama

Sunday, January 20, 2008 @ 5:00pm

Columbia, SC

Action Center

Obama Mobile

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Hold the presses: Obama wins delegate vote in Nevada (2008-01-19 18:21)

Well, it looks like despite losing the popular vote, Barack Obama has won the delegate vote in Nevada with 13 to Clinton's 12.

Delegates are of course the votes that count at the Democratic Convention.

Campaign manager David Plouffe also reports some anomalies in the caucus process.

Statement from Obama campaign manager David Plouffe...

We currently have reports of over 200 separate incidents of trouble at caucus sites, including doors being closed up to thirty minutes early, registration forms running out so people were turned away, and ID being requested and checked in a non-uniform fashion. This is in addition to the Clinton campaign's efforts to confuse voters and call into question the at-large caucus sites which clearly had an affect on turnout at these locations. These kinds of Clinton campaign tactics were part of an entire week's worth of false, divisive, attacks designed to mislead caucus-goers and discredit the caucus itself.

We will investigate all of these thoroughly and would encourage anyone who had concern about actions at the caucus sites to call (866) 675-2008.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Annalist (2008-01-20 11:54:00)

Yesterday, while at her polling place in Las Vegas, my friend called me by cell phone just as she finished registering. She was told that she could go home. It didn't sound right to me, so I told her to stay to caucus. She did. I am going to email the telephone number to report suspicious incidents.

I must comment on another issue. I have commented on numerous blogs the fact that Like Geo. W. Bush, the Clintons' don't seem to realize the impact of their words. Bush in the casual use of the word, "Crusade." Bill Clinton, the "Fairytale-teller," himself, and Hillary's remarks about Dr. King. Now, after having won Nevada, she said, "I guess this is how the "West" was won. Having relied heavily on a large Hispanic turn-out for her, after she won, she insulted them. Doesn't she realize that Nevada is part of the "west?" The very word "Nevada" is a Spanish word which means, "snow capped." And by the way, the west was not won with votes, but by guns. If this remark is brought to her attention, I'll bet dollars to dough-nuts, she will blame someone else for her "loose use" of the language.

St. Petersburg Times endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-20 10:21)

Although the Democratic candidates are not campaigning in Florida, Sen. Barack Obama got the endorsement of the St. Petersburg Times along with the Pensacola News Journal, Daytona Beach News Journal, Bradenton Herald and Tampa Tribune.

Here is the St. Petersburg Times endorsement:

Obama for Democrats

A Times Editorial

Published January 20, 2008

After Florida's shabby treatment by the Democratic presidential candidates, you could not blame voters if they decided to sit out the state's Jan. 29 primary. However, this contest is too important to pass on. Florida Democrats face a historic choice, one they will tell their children and grandchildren about some day. Even though the national party has stripped the state of its delegates as punishment for moving up its primary, our votes cannot be denied. They will help determine whether the 2008 Democratic nominee will be an African-American or a woman. Either would be a first.

No wonder many voters are torn, wishing they didn't have to choose one over the other. It is a close call, but as much as we admire Hillary Clinton, we recommend Barack Obama for president in this primary vote. (John Edwards is still actively campaigning.)

Clinton, of course, is the safer choice, largely because she has been in the national eye for 16 years. If anything, we may know too much about her. She bills herself as the candidate of competence and experience who is "ready to lead from day one." However, like many voters who have cast ballots so far, we find Obama to be a more promising choice and a more inspiring voice in these troubled times. His message of hope and change has resonated with voters, including independents and young people. He speaks of the kind of change many Americans yearn for in their politics and their government - not just turning the page on George W. Bush's presidency but changing something more fundamental in Washington.

What separates these two candidates are not the issues, where their differences are minimal, but the values and vision they would bring to the presidency and the kind of political character they have displayed so far.

In Clinton, we see the past; in Obama, we see a fresh start. Clinton is a divisive political figure; Obama's appeal transcends racial and party lines. She exudes competence; he radiates optimism. She came to the campaign with a sense of entitlement; he came to it with a sense of possibilities. She can be evasive, even misleading; he can be refreshingly candid about his own shortcomings and his political mistakes. She represents business as usual in politics; he at least offers the hope of something better.

We should keep our feet on the ground and not get swept away by unrealistic expectations for Obama, either as a candidate or as a president. Could a senator with a down-the-line liberal voting record find common ground with conservative Republicans? Does he have the political courage to stand up to any of his party's key interest groups? We need to hear less rhetoric about change and more specifics on exactly what changes Obama has in mind and how he would bring them about.

Real change can be disruptive and painful. There is one change, however, that would be neither. After almost 20 years of having a Bush or a Clinton in the White House, it may be that many Americans are ready for a fresh face in the Oval Office. Does the country really want to extend the Bush-Clinton rotation to 28 years? That is not a throw-away question.

Contrary to what some say, tone does matter, sometimes as much as substance. Floridians have only to look to Tallahassee to see how one political leader can make a difference. Republican Gov. Charlie Crist has brought civility to the political debate in the state capital and is practicing the kind of postpartisan leadership that Obama talks about bringing to Washington.

The biggest question about Obama is whether he has the experience and toughness to lead the country in dangerous times. Clinton and her surrogates rarely miss an opportunity to raise doubts about his readiness to assume the enormous responsibilities of the presidency. Apparently, many leading Democrats including Senate colleagues who have endorsed his candidacy don't share those doubts.

They speak of Obama's intellect, instincts, temperament and judgment. While he spoke out against the Iraq war from the start, Clinton's "experience" did not keep her from voting for this disastrous misadventure, or from misrepresenting her position, something she continues to do.

Clinton, a former first lady now serving her second term as a U.S. senator from New York, would bring conventional political experience to the Oval Office. Obama offers a different kind of experience - his "life experience" as the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, as a Harvard law graduate who passed up a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship to work as a community organizer in Chicago's poor neighborhoods, as a state senator and since 2005 as a U.S. senator from Illinois.

Another Illinois politician was elected president with even less experience than Obama. He was a former state legislator and one-term congressman named Abraham Lincoln. We don't suggest that Obama is a Lincoln, only that Washington experience should not be the only standard for measuring a candidate's qualifications to be president.

We don't appreciate the Obama campaign memo spinning the Florida primary, which the Democratic candidates are boycotting, as a non-event that will have "no bearing" on the nomination contest. However, we don't think pique should be the basis for our choice. The Times recommends Barack Obama in the Jan. 29 Democratic primary.

Source: St. Petersburg Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Get Out The Vote drive fires up in South Carolina (2008-01-20 12:24)

South Carolina supporters of Barack Obama are pushing with just a week left before the polls for a big turnout on Jan. 26.



Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, former Mississippi Gov. Ray Mabus and former South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges rally Obama supporters to get out the vote.

Former SC Dem. Party chief Dick Harpootlian, a Barack Obama supporter, talks about the South Carolina race. [EMBED]

X

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Tuscaloosa News picks Barack Obama (2008-01-20 14:27)

The Tuscaloosa News in the Feb. 5 state of Alabama has endorsed Barack Obama today as Democratic nominee.



"We endorse McCain, Obama as party nominees"

"On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Alabama voters have an opportunity to help change the course of history by selecting a candidate for president who will redirect the nation to an era of progress, peace and prosperity."

We believe Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama offer the best hope among the candidates for effective, positive leadership.

We disagree with McCain on many issues of domestic policy and we were disappointed to see him strongly back President Bush on this country's tragic and failed course in Iraq.

Yet we feel that McCain stands head and shoulders above the rest of the Republican field in terms of stature, honesty and character. He speaks his mind and doesn't try to hide his positions behind a cloud of rhetoric. He actively engages critics, seeking real dialog on issues.

He is a thoughtful, experienced and intelligent public servant. A level-headed man, he would avoid involving our country in future debacles.

The looming recession will demand a president who is dedicated to fiscal responsibility. McCain has a strong record as a critic of earmarking and a champion of budgetary restraint.

He's tough, smart and shoots straight. He would never dishonor the high office that he seeks.

Obama, at the other end of the age spectrum - he will be 47 on election day, as opposed to McCain's 70 - is a breath of fresh air in American politics. He holds a special appeal to younger voters, who see him as an agent for change from the dreary politics-as-usual in Washington.

At the same time, he has leadership qualities beyond his years. He is a brilliant and persuasive speaker. He is a unifier who honestly hopes to break the capital's partisan gridlock. And while some of his rivals for the nomination have more years of experience, Obama has quickly learned the territory in his relatively short time in Washington.

As a member of the 109th Congress, he co-sponsored the enactment of conventional weapons control and transparency legislation. He made official trips to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

In the 110th Congress, he sponsored legislation on lobbying and electoral fraud, climate change, nuclear terrorism and care for returned military personnel.

As a candidate for president, he has advocated ending the Iraq War, increasing energy independence, and providing universal health care as major items on his agenda.

There is much to be said for (and against) his main challenger Hillary Clinton. But after four years of George H.W. Bush as president, followed by eight years of Bill Clinton, followed by eight years of George W. Bush, most Americans would prefer a fresh face in the White House, someone who can move away from the cycle of partisan warfare that these two families have furthered.

That person, we believe, is Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Lynn (2008-01-20 22:04:00)

I am glad to see this! I do a question/comment about CNN - how come there is so much Clinton coverage (esp on Blitzer's program) - I actually had to switch to FOX to see something about Obama ?! Is anyone else finding that CNN is overly heavy on

Clinton coverage & light on Obama??

Lynn (2008-01-20 23:15:00)

Hello,

Is there a place where Obama supporters can talk? I am very disturbed by a post which indicates unfair campaign behavior by Clinton supporters. If true, this should be given some media coverage! I found it here -

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/01/20/after_nevada_caucuses_charges_1.html

First issue was it took me several months of arguing and fighting to be the Temporary Chair for my precinct. The argument with the DEM party began in July and wasn't decided until late Nov. The party had placed two different Clinton supporters in the position on two different occasions, but I finally prevailed. The Party rules dictated no campaign signs inside our caucus sites and advised us to arrive around 10 or 10:30, noting the venue would be open at 9:30. I arrived at 9:30AM and found "Clinton Central" - signs, balloons, food, etc. had been placed just inside the doorway of the caucus site. Along with the "things" were several women wearing Clinton gear and acting very smug. They informed me they had been there since 7:30AM! I asked them to remove their signage and one of them responded, "I WILL REMOVE IT WHEN SOMEONE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY COMES HERE AND TELLS ME TO." Funny thing, my Alternate Chair was standing with this woman and said nothing. My caucus secretary, called Dem HQ and relayed their ruling that the signage must come down. The woman again responded, "I WILL REMOVE IT WHEN SOMEONE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY COMES HERE AND TELLS ME TO." I showed the woman my Temp Chair badge and told her this was not a Hillary Clinton event and that no candidate at this caucus was going to be permitted to display signage anywhere but that signage worn on one's body, per the rules of the Democratic Party. The woman dismissed me and stated for the third time, "I WILL REMOVE IT WHEN SOMEONE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY COMES HERE AND TELLS ME TO." Shortly thereafter an official stopped by with a police officer and ordered the woman to remove the signage. She complied. The police officer stayed for a few minutes and made sure the signage was taken down and stayed down so my volunteers and I could set up our registration tables. All of this occurred under the watchful eye of a my Clinton supporting Alternate Chair, who remained silent throughout the ordeal. The other puzzle is that the Dem Party provided me with 75 ballots for my entire precinct and refused to provide anymore. My Kucinich Volunteer tried on two occasions to obtain preference cards and was told no. I went down to DEM HQ two nights before the caucus, after a confirming phone call, to obtain more preference cards and was also told no. Now for the puzzle - the majority of the first 75 attendees to my caucus, all who arrived before 10:30AM were Clinton supporters! I was lucky enough to plan ahead and provided an extra 150 preference cards made at my own expense, much to the surprise and chagrin of those early arriving Clinton supporters. Fact is I was able to provide preference cards not only to all of the my caucus goers, but also provided preference cards to other precincts at my caucus, who ran out. I also provided plain paper to them as well to use as preference cards when the cards ran out. I knew from my dealings with the party between July and Nov that this caucus was geared toward one candidate which is why I made absolutely sure my caucus would be prepared. Last issue, after the caucus, ALL THE EXTRA PREFERENCE CARDS FROM MY CAUCUS WERE TAKEN BY A HILLARY SUPPORTER and supposedly delivered to another venue for their use - THE CLINTON SUPPORTER TOOK THE PREFERENCE CARDS AFTER THE CAUCUS WAS OVER, AFTER 12:40PM!!!! The innocence of me and of other caucus chairs who believed the caucus would be fair and impartial was what the Clinton Campaign and the DEM party were counting on January 19, 2008 and it appears they succeeded in using that innocence and belief to their advantage. I am pleased to report that my precinct was split and Hillary Clinton did not win!! My husband overheard the woman who caused all the signage trouble, ask another Clinton supporter after the caucus, "I thought this was a lock, what happened?"

Posted by: frillymail1017 | January 20, 2008 08:49 PM

Paul Kekai Manansala (2008-01-21 08:48:00)

Have you tried the official blog:

<http://barackobama.com/blog>

Video: Obama in Atlanta and South Carolina (2008-01-21 08:49)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama at the late Dr. Martin Luther King's church [EMBED]

Stand Together rally in Columbia, South Carolina

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Obama Mobile

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-21 10:37)

Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon endorses Barack Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Monday, January 21, 2008 at 07:49 AM

BALTIMORE, MD X – Today, Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon endorsed Barack Obama for President, citing his commitment to bringing people together to create change that matters for all of America's families.

Mayor Dixon said, "I am proud to support Barack Obama because he is the candidate in this race who has proven he can bring people together to create change that matters for working families. As a community organizer he made life better for the poorest people in Chicago by improving housing and fighting job loss. In the Illinois state senate, he brought people together to pass universal health care for children. And in the United States Senate, he has reached across the aisle to fight the power of special interests on our government. He has a plan to make sure every child has a world-class education and every family has affordable health care, and those are the things that truly matter in people's lives. I am proud to support his campaign."

Senator Barack Obama said, "As the first woman to hold this office in Baltimore, Mayor Dixon is a trail-blazer, and she has spent a lifetime working to make life better for Baltimore's families. From her years as a Kindergarten teacher to serving as president of the Baltimore City Council to fighting poverty and homelessness as Baltimore's mayor, Mayor Dixon has worked to bring change that matters in people's lives. As a working mother herself, she knows firsthand the demands on working families in our country, and she is committed to making policies that work for the future of Baltimore. I look forward to working with her to bring change in the months and years to come."

Mayor Sheila Dixon became mayor in January 2007, and is Baltimore's first female mayor. Previously, she served as the first African American female to serve as the Baltimore City Council president. Dixon also sat on the Baltimore City State Central Committee, and spent years as a kindergarten teacher in Baltimore.

[EMBED]

New television ad airing nationally on MSNBC and CNN

Obama Campaign stops in South Carolina Greenville – Jan. 22

Greenwood – Jan. 22

Orangeburg – Jan. 22

Rock Hill – Jan. 23

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-01-21 11:05)

I found this of all places on the Times of India website! Haven't seen any television coverage.

WASHINGTON: US Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign on Sunday said that it had received reports of voting irregularities in Nevada's nominating caucuses, which were won by rival Hillary Clinton.

Spokesmen for Obama's campaign told reporters that a Clinton party handout urged registration lines for the caucuses Saturday to close at 11:30 am, whereas state party rules said anyone in line until 12:00 pm was to be allowed to participate.

"Despite clear rules and timelines laid out by the Nevada Democratic Party that caucus doors should remain open and voter registration should continue until noon, the Clinton campaign encouraged their operatives to close the caucus doors at 11:30 am, a half hour before that deadline," said spokesman Bill Burton.

"This caused confusion and led to people leaving the caucuses before having the chance to participate."

Clinton won the state's nominating contest with 51 percent of the vote, while Obama received 45 percent. The victory increased the former first lady's lead over Obama, after she also won the New Hampshire primary on January 8.

Obama won the Democrats' first nominating caucuses in Iowa at the beginning of the month. His campaign called for a full review of the Nevada vote but insisted it was not calling into question the results.

"We found an unusually high number of reports that the Clinton campaign was insisting that 11:30 was the deadline," said general counsel Bob Bauer, adding that at least 300 complaints had come in.

"We are not calling the results into question at all. We want to make sure this doesn't happen again," Bauer said.

"We are going to notify the Nevada Democratic party that we want a full review of this, and make sure we have in front of us a full picture to make sure this behavior is highlighted and discouraged in the future."

Asked by reporters why an early close would have particularly affected Obama supporters, Bauer said "a campaign that departs from the rules and disenfranchises voters has to be held accountable for that."

He added: "We care about all the voters who would have been affected by this rule."

According to the Nevada Democratic Party rules: "Caucus registration will remain open until viability is determined

by 12:00 pm.”

Burton sent reporters an email containing what he described as the contents of the Clinton campaign precinct captain handbook, which said 11:30 am was the “deadline for registering (or standing in line to register) to participate in the caucus.”

It also said 11:30 am was the time when the “caucus chair closes doors and announces attendance.”

Contacted for comment, Clinton spokesman Phil Singer said the New York senator’s campaign planned to hold its own press conference at 6:15 pm.

Rep. Rick Boucher endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-21 12:05)

U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher of Virginia announced his support for Sen. Barack Obama today.

“He has the broadest appeal of any of the candidates,” Boucher said. “He clearly, in my mind, offers the best hope for the Democratic party to win the general election.”

“He can unite the country like no other, which is important after years of the most bitter partisanship in recent memory.”

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



djmws (2008-01-22 10:07:00)

blacks would be denying their race by not voting for Barack. The most important issue is to have a black president period. It will change the US and the world. No matter what blacks say in public when they vote it must be for Barack. We as Americans must send a message to Washington and the world. His election will send that message.

Video clips from CNN debate (2008-01-21 21:49)

Check out the YouTube video clips from tonight’s fiery debate on CNN in South Carolina co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus.

[EMBED]

Barack responds to attacks.

[EMBED]

Obama on change.

[EMBED]

Obama comments on the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Bennie Thompson endorses Sen. Barack Obama (2008-01-22 09:32)

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today for president.

[EMBED]

Obama Campaign stops in South Carolina Greenville – Jan. 22
Greenwood – Jan. 22
Orangeburg – Jan. 22
Rock Hill – Jan. 23

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Is Hillary Clinton bugging out of South Carolina? (2008-01-22 10:27)

An AFP article suggests that Hillary Clinton may be writing off South Carolina as she has left to campaign elsewhere until Thursday while opponents Barack Obama and John Edwards are actively stumping in the state.

The Importance of South Carolina (2008-01-22 11:18)

The most important move the Obama campaign can do now in preparation for Super Tuesday is to win South Carolina. A win in the Palmetto State guarantees nationwide media coverage far exceeding any televisions ads the campaign could afford. Barack will have the "big mo" going into Tsunami Tuesday when 22 states pick the Democratic nominee. If he loses there, people will say the Iowa win was a fluke. African Americans may see him as non-viable since he could not win a state in which they make up about half the Democratic electorate. There will be a lot of negative buzz about his electability.

The big task again, as with all other states except probably Illinois, will be to get out the vote, especially Obama's young supporters. The work requires voter contact, preferably person-to-person although robo-calls, radio ads and other mass media techniques can also help.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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SC: 'The State' Endorses Barack Obama for President (2008-01-22 14:14)

Check out this big newspaper endorsement out of South Carolina:

'The State' Endorses Barack Obama for President

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 12:36 PM

The largest newspaper in South Carolina endorses Barack Obama for President of the United States...



Obama most likely Democrat to unify America

The State editorial board's Democratic presidential primary endorsement

THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY in South Carolina this year offers voters an unusual choice. Earlier votes have winnowed out the most experienced candidates, leaving a field with fewer accomplishments and differences on policy, but including two candidates who come with the promise to make history just because of who they are.

Looking at the remaining field: Rep. Dennis Kucinich offers a bold plan on health care, but his platform is unlikely to endear him to many in South Carolina. John Edwards has morphed away from the optimist who won South Carolina in 2004. The candidate who stayed mostly above the fray four years ago is angry now, and pushing hard to turn working-class angst into political opportunity. He also has tried to one-up the other top Democrats with the least prudent plan for withdrawing from Iraq.

On positions from Iraq to health care, the policy differences between Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama are minute. Much of the debate between them has involved making these molehills look mountainous or clashing over who-shifted-when.

The one most significant difference between them can be found in how they would approach the presidency - and how the nation might respond.

Hillary Clinton has been a policy wonk most of her life, a trait she has carried into the U.S. Senate. As her debate performances have shown, she has intelligence and a deep understanding of many issues. Her efforts in New York focused first on learning her adopted state's issues in detail, and pursuing legislation that would not necessarily grab headlines.

But we also have a good idea what a Clinton presidency would look like. The restoration of the Clintons to the White House would trigger a new wave of all-out political warfare. That is not all Bill and Hillary's fault - but it exists, whomever you blame, and cannot be ignored. Hillary Clinton doesn't pretend that it won't happen; she simply vows to persevere, in the hope that her side can win. Indeed, the Clintons' joint career in public life seems oriented toward securing victory and personal vindication.

Sen. Obama's campaign is an argument for a more unifying style of leadership. In a time of great partisanship, he is careful to talk about winning over independents and even Republicans. He is harsh on the failures of the current administration - and most of that critique well-deserved. But he doesn't use his considerable rhetorical gifts to demonize Republicans. He's not neglecting his core values; he defends his progressive vision with vigorous integrity. But for him, American unity - transcending party - is a core value in itself.

Can such unity be restored, in this poisonous political culture? Not unless that is a nominee's goal from the outset. It will be a difficult challenge for any candidate; but we wait in the hope that someone really will try. There is no other hope for rescuing our republic from the mire.

Sen. Obama would also have the best chance to repair the damage to America's global reputation. A leader with his biography - including his roots in Africa and his years spent growing up overseas - could transform the world's view of America. He would seize that opportunity.

He would close the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, which has damaged America's moral standing, and strive to rebuild many diplomatic relationships.

Despite America's bitter partisan divide, all sides should agree on this: In such an environment, little gets done. Congress has been largely useless under both Republican and Democratic leadership. Setting aside the ideological conflict for conflict's sake to get anything worthwhile done has fallen severely out of fashion.

And America certainly has things to get done.

From terrorism and climate change to runaway federal entitlement spending, there are big challenges to be faced. Sen. Obama is the only Democrat who plausibly can say that he wants to work with Americans across the political spectrum to address such subjects - and he has the integrity and the skills of persuasion that make him the best-qualified among the remaining Democratic hopefuls to address these challenges.

He would be a groundbreaking nominee. More to the point, he makes a solid case that he is ready to lead the whole country. We see Sen. Barack Obama as the best choice in Saturday's Democratic primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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One on one: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar vs. Magic Johnson (2008-01-22 16:05)

Hillary Clinton may have Magic Johnson on her side, but the former NBA star's teammate on the Los Angeles Lakers, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, is rooting for Barack Obama.

"Mrs. Clinton is not a bad choice, I just think Mr. Obama is the best choice," Abdul-Jabbar told Nico Pitney of the Huffington Post.

"Unfortunately, Mrs. Clinton has been at many times a divisive figure, and I don't think that's intentional on her part, but I do think that's the case."

On the claim by Johnson in a South Carolina radio campaign ad that Obama is still a "rookie," Abdul-Jabbar says: "'I don't think he's a rookie. He's served as a senator very capably, and he is very skilled in terms of his ability to organize and lead people. And that's what we need right now.'"

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Sen. John Kerry asks supporters to fight swiftboating (2008-01-22 17:37)

Sen. John Kerry sent out an email today for the Obama campaign asking supporters to combat "swiftboating" email and other attacks using the official website's Fact Check Action Center.

Dear Paul,

✖ I support Barack Obama because he doesn't seek to perfect the politics of Swiftboating – he seeks to end it.

This is personal for me, and for a whole lot of Americans who lived through the 2004 election.

As a veteran, it disgusts me that the Swift Boats we loved while we were in uniform on the Mekong Delta have been rendered, in Karl Rove's twisted politics, an ugly verb meaning to lie about someone's character just to win an election. But as someone who cares about winning this election and changing the country I love, I know it's not enough to complain about a past we can't change when our challenge is to win the future – which is why we must stop the Swiftboating, stop the push-polling, stop the front groups, and stop the email chain smears.

The truth matters, but how you fight the lies matters even more. We must be determined never again to lose any election to a lie.

This year, the attacks are already starting. Some of you may have heard about the disgusting lies about Barack Obama that are being circulated by email. These attacks smear Barack's Christian faith and deep patriotism, and they distort his record of more than two decades of public service. They are nothing short of "Swiftboat" style anonymous attacks.

These are the same tactics the right has used again and again, and as we've learned, these attacks, no matter how bogus, can spread and take root if they go unchecked.

But not this time – we're fighting back.

And when I say "we," I mean that literally. I know Barack is committed to fighting every smear every time. He'll fight hard and stand up for the truth. But he can't do it alone.

We need you to email the truth to your address books. Print it out and post it at work. Talk to your neighbors. Call your local radio station. Write a letter to the editor. If lies can be spread virally, let's prove to the cynics that the truth can be every bit as persuasive as it is powerful.

The Obama campaign has created a place where you can find the truth you'll need to push back on these smears and a way to spread the truth to all of your address book.

Take action here:

<http://my.barackobama.com/factcheckaction>

So when your inbox fills up with trash and the emails of smear and fear, find the facts, and help defeat the lies.

Barack Obama is committed to bringing our country together to meet the challenges we face, but he knows that power gives up nothing without a struggle – and to win the chance to change America, we must first defeat the hateful tactics that have been used to tear us apart for too long.

With your help, we can turn the page on an era of small, divisive politics – but only if next time you hear these attacks on Barack, you take action immediately:

<http://my.barackobama.com/factcheckaction>

The fight is just heating up – we won't let them steal this election with lies and distortions.

Thank you,

John Kerry



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-01-22 17:43)

Obama Campaign Stops in South Carolina

Rock Hill – Jan. 23

Sumter – Jan. 23

Dillon – Jan. 23

New Mexico endorsement rally tomorrow (2008-01-22 20:37)

There will be a rally tomorrow in New Mexico as state legislators announce their endorsement of Sen. Barack Obama.
From barackobama.com:

Rally & Announcement of Endorsements for Obama (Meeting)

RALLY & ANNOUNCEMENT OF ENDORSEMENTS FOR BARACK OBAMA

You are invited THIS Wednesday, January 23

New Mexico State Capitol

Round House

WEST STEPS facing Don Gaspar

Please give yourself enough time to be parked and start gathering by 1:00 on the West-side steps of the State Capitol building downtown Santa Fe.

Event will start punctually @ 1:30 pm & end approximately 2:00 pm

Bring all your friends who support Barack and those who want to know more about him!

Be there to proudly wave Obama signs and cheer as

important endorsements are announced by New Mexico State Legislators. Come out to show New Mexico and the entire country how well supported Barack Obama is in New Mexico.

WEAR YOUR OBAMA GEAR – Sweatshirts, t-shirts, buttons, caps – everything!

THIS WILL BE AN EXTREMELEY EXCITING EVENT.

Obama Campaign Stops in South Carolina Rock Hill – Jan 23

Sumter – Jan 23

Dillon – Jan 23

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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New York Observer to endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-22 21:17)

According to the Huffington Post, the New York Observer will endorse Barack Obama tomorrow. Here is an excerpt of the endorsement provided by HP:

Obama for America:
We Back Barack in
Democratic Primary

Yes, He's Transformative
And Restorative as Well

The New York Observer urges New York Democrats to support Mr. Obama in the state's presidential primary on Feb. 5.

New Yorkers might ask why they should not pull a lever for our junior senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton. While Mrs. Clinton is an extraordinary United States senator for New York, we believe that Mr. Obama can be a great president for the United States of America.

Most of the other candidates have absorbed, assimilated or appropriated Mr. Obama's issue of change.

But a great deal of the argument for Mr. Obama's candidacy is about one great issue in American life: Restoring American democracy.

It is difficult to remember the last national candidate who has charged and jazzed the democratic system as Mr. Obama has. Partly as a result of his candidacy, college campuses have remembered why they are proud of the United States, kids are going door to door, runners are handing out leaflets on weekends, racial lines have been culturally melted and the electoral approach to presidential campaigning has been reborn.

And, as more than one commentator has said, America is being reintroduced to the world.

Mr. Obama stands the best chance of restoring the essential relationship between power and the American people. He is not flanked and blocked by an existing, entrenched power structure; his words are not muddled by layers of handlers; he still says what he means.

Mr. Obama would also be the most formidable Democrat in the general election. He has demonstrated a capacity to energize young people and attract new voters, and is the only candidate in the Democratic Party who attracts independents, who are the fastest-growing part of the electorate. His refusal to demonize the Republican Party as a right-wing attack machine will appeal to those independents as well as moderate Republicans.

As far as experience goes, when George W. Bush was driving a bleary, shocked nation into war with bait-and-switch deceptions in 2003, where was our experienced leadership? Meanwhile, in the west, an Illinois state senator-who has since served two years in the Senate, the same Congressional period that a fellow Midwesterner, Abraham Lincoln, had served when he sought the presidency-rose to exhibit

courage and public judgment on that deceptive adventure, stating, "I am not opposed to all wars. I'm opposed to dumb wars."

Now we have paid the price many times over, and there are no clear paths in Baghdad. But there may be one in Washington. Mr. Obama is the emblem of a new America.

He has risen too quickly for his opponents' taste; that fact is nothing less than a recommendation.

His relationship to truth and plain speaking and public transparency is the first step toward reviving democracy in the United States of America. Barack Obama of Illinois is the future. New York's Democrats should embrace him.

Action Center
Obama Mobile

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Three Ways to Get Involved (2008-01-23 08:02)

From barackobama.com:

Three Ways to Get Involved

by Sarah Ramey,

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 07:02 PM

The primary season is now in full swing! With only 4 days until South Carolina and two weeks until February 5th, when 22 states across the nation hold their primaries and caucuses, now is the time to take action.

Host a South Carolina Watch Party



This Saturday, January 26th, folks across the nation are coming together to support Barack and watch the primary results come in through the night. A South Carolina Watch Party is a great way to share Barack's message with friends, family and fellow supporters. Find a South Carolina Watch Party near you or create your own event today: [click here](#).

Make calls to February 5th voters



Answer Barack's call to action by picking up the phone. You can make calls from the comfort of your home whenever works best for you with our online phone banking tool. Get started reaching out to February 5th voters: [click here](#).

Organize your community

GET INVOLVED
IN YOUR COMMUNITY



From knocking on doors to get-out-the-vote efforts, we need your help to build the movement! Check out the Grassroots Action Guide for tips and resources on how to organize in your area: [click here](#).

If we are ready for real change in our country, now is the time to make the difference. Get involved today!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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The Desert Sun recommends Barack Obama (2008-01-23 08:39)

The Desert Sun, the daily newspaper of Palm Springs, California has endorsed Barack Obama for Democratic nominee today.

Among Democrats, Obama most likely to unify nation

Sen. Barack Obama is our choice for president in California's Democratic primary because he has a remarkable gift to inspire people and that is a hallmark of great leaders.

Our best presidents had that gift. Given the economic climate, the ability to inspire is critically important now.

Obama shows an ability to bring people together, not just with his passionate oratory. He wants to unify people. He says he doesn't see blue states and red states, but the United States. He is clearly registering with independents. He also has the ability to win over some Republicans. We need a president who can govern from the middle, rise above partisan politics and appeal to people across party lines.

He recognizes that change is necessary and he has the ability to deliver change. He is smart and well respected.

Obama is serving his first term in the U.S. Senate, so he does not have a long tenure in Washington from which to draw - or a long record on which to run. But none of the leading Democratic candidates have that, either. Certainly, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton has been in the public eye and knows well the scrutiny and pressures that come with the highest office in the land, but she does not have as much experience as she would lead you to believe. Yes, she was first lady. But that's not the same as being president. She did not have security clearance to receive intelligence briefings or discuss highly classified national security information. She's not served for very long in the Senate.

Baggage from her husband's presidency could carry over. Change is in the air and Clinton just isn't showing us she could unite a nation when some polls show that independents and some Republicans fed up with the Bush administration are more likely to support Obama.

Side-by-side, Obama and Clinton are nearly identical on the issues. The similarities are far more striking than the differences.

On Iran, both would engage in "direct diplomacy," use economic sanctions and meet with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Military action is not off the table, but would not be considered without congressional approval.

On illegal immigration, they both support a path to legalization for the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States. Both want immigrants to learn English and pay fines. In the Senate, they voted to fence the Mexican border.

On climate change, they both support a mandatory cap and trade system to reduce carbon emissions, 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

On abortion, they are both pro-choice.

Among other major issues, slight differences are on Iraq and health care. Obama opposed the invasion from the very beginning. He opposed troop increase. He would withdraw one or two brigades a month in an attempt to either end, or scale down U.S. involvement within 16 months.

Clinton voted to authorize the invasion in 2002. She now is opposed to the war and opposed troop increases. She would support a phased withdrawal within 60 days of taking office and hopes to have most troops out by the end of 2013.

As president, Clinton says she would require that everyone have health insurance, which would be subsidized by employers and the government. Obama would require all children to have health insurance. It would be paid for by rolling back President Bush's tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000.

At this point, it comes down to who is more likely to unite and inspire an already divided nation. Sen. Obama offers the best chance of doing that and Democrats should support him in California's primary on Feb. 5.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



A Vote for Obama is a Vote for Women (2008-01-23 09:11)

Tracey Fischman is a Huffington Post blogger and former Vice President of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area (PP/CA).

A Vote for Obama is a Vote for Women

Yesterday – January 22, 2008 – marked the 35th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision that guarantees a woman's right to choose an abortion. It was on this day that I felt particularly compelled to speak out about my experiences with Senator Barack Obama – a man who should be honored, not condemned, for his consistent and unwavering support for reproductive freedom, women's health, gender equity and – more broadly – social justice.

I recognize that outsiders are attacking Senator Obama on the "chutzpah" factor – suggesting that he lacks courage or real commitment on the "hard" issues such as reproductive rights or other issues such as gun control and violence against women. My experiences could not be further from that depiction.

I formerly worked for Planned Parenthood in Illinois. I had the honor of working with Senator Barack Obama during his tenure in the Illinois Senate. He was – and remains – adamant about his support for women's health and access to reproductive healthcare services. His present votes on abortion-related bills were part of a broader pro-choice strategy designed to ultimately defeat bad and dangerous legislation that would have compromised the health and safety of Illinois women. As Planned Parenthood's lobbyist in Illinois has said, Senator Obama was asked to facilitate a strategy designed to help provide cover for other Democrats. Specifically, Planned Parenthood turned to Senator Obama because of his strong record on reproductive rights. At the time, Republicans were trying to force Democrats from conservative districts to register politically controversial no votes. Senator Obama initially resisted the strategy, as he wanted to vote against the anti-abortion measures, but decided to work with our strategy to help defeat these anti-choice bills. It is important to note that a present vote on a bad bill is essentially the same as a "no" vote, as the bill needs "yes" votes to pass. However, it is difficult for Republicans to use "present" votes in their campaign literature against Democrats from moderate and conservative districts (also see December 20, 2007 NY Times article: "It's Not Just 'Ayes' and 'Nays': Obama's Votes in Illinois Echo"). This strategy is now being used against Senator Obama in the same way we planned for it to work in our favor then.

It is confounding to me that Senator Obama is being demeaned and attacked so vociferously on this. I came into this campaign season feeling relieved and thankful that our two main candidates support women's health and reproductive freedom. I am now deeply disappointed that politics has led to deceitful misrepresentations of Senator Obama's commitment and work in this area.

Senator Obama was a leader in the Illinois legislature, and has continued to demonstrate leadership in the U.S. Senate. He understands reproductive rights within a broader context of health and prevention. He promotes, both in words and in action, a public health agenda that includes (but is not limited to): prevention of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; access to contraception; comprehensive sex education programs (which include information about abstinence as well as age-appropriate information about prevention and the availability of health services); and reducing disparities in health access for low income communities.

Again – based on my experience, I can personally say that Senator Obama comes to his positions and his work from very deep-seated principles about justice, opportunity, equality and freedom. He also is strategic about finding ways to accomplish goals. It is these principles combined with his strategic sensibilities, experiences and ability to bring people together that garnered my personal support for his candidacy.

We are at a juncture in our nation. Over the last eight years, we have faced unprecedented challenges to reproductive freedom, justice and equality. President Bush and his administration did more to turn back the clock on issues of concern to women and undeserved communities than we have seen in generations. These assaults came in many forms, including (but not limited to): the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule prohibiting international family planning programs from receiving US funds if they even counseled on abortion (with their own private money); the appointment of two anti-choice fundamentalist Supreme Court justices and many more like-minded Federal judges; increased funding for dangerous abstinence-only until marriage sex education programs; censorship within administrative agencies and with grantees; dismantling of family planning programs; broad barriers to contraception and reproductive health care services; and a general environment in which politics has trumped effective public health and good science.

We must make a change and elect a president who believes in an America for us all. An America that values women and families, promotes both prevention and access to abortion, and fosters and implements programs to support the values that Senator Obama so deeply holds. Senator Obama is 100 % pro-choice and is a champion for women's health and equality. For these reasons – and many more – he is getting my vote this year.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Why Lorna Brett Howard switched from Clinton to Obama (2008-01-23 14:49)

Lorna Brett Howard, former president of Chicago NOW, was a solid supporter of Hillary Clinton until just a few weeks ago. Find out why she switched to Barack Obama by listening to the video below.

[EMBED]

Host a South Carolina Watch Party



Make calls to February 5th voters



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GET INVOLVED
IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-01-24 05:00:00)

you mean clinton to obama.

The Rock Hill Herald (SC) Endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-23 15:35)

The Rock Hill Herald (SC) Endorses Barack Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 01:56 PM

The Rock Hill Herald (SC) has endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States...

X

OPINION: Obama for Democratic nomination

Barack Obama, at 46, could have waited four or even eight years to run for the presidency, but decided that this year's campaign was his moment.

We think he was right; his candidacy is ideally suited for this point in the nation's history. Obama, more than any other candidate in either party, has based his campaign on the promise of positive change in Washington and an effort to heal the caustic partisan rift that divides not only the nation's capital but also much of the nation.

The promise of change is nothing unique in the rhetoric of the stump. But we think Obama brings both a unique biography and an impressive set of skills to this campaign.

Obama, son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, is the first African-American to contend seriously for the presidency. As a child, he lived for four years in predominantly Muslim Indonesia before moving with his mother to Hawaii. And after graduating from Columbia University in 1983, he deferred the pursuit of a career to work as a community organizer for a church-based group in the poor neighborhoods of Chicago.

As he notes himself, he would bring a new face to the presidency, a new face representing the United States to the rest of the world. That, alone, is a significant recommendation for his candidacy.

But he also possesses considerable charisma and oratorical skills. He is coolly rational — perhaps to a fault. His deliberative responses to questions sometimes do not lend themselves to sound bites or serve him well in debates. But that thoughtfulness derives from an apparent depth of intelligence.

His experience has been questioned. But he claims foreign policy expertise — more, he says, than Ronald Reagan or Bill Clinton had when they first ran — as a member of the Senate foreign relations committee and as one who has traveled extensively and understands the world.

He also boasts political experience. In 1996, he won a seat in the Illinois Senate, where he served for eight years. In 2004, he was elected by a landslide to the U.S. Senate.

He concedes that he lacks administrative experience, but said that putting together a \$100 million campaign says something about his organizational and leadership skills.

We trust that Obama's chief Democratic opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, would bring a wealth of experience to the White House. As she claims, she would be ready for the job "on day one."

But we believe, because of her association with her husband's two administrations, that she also would bring the baggage of polarization and bitter rhetoric that has dominated the political landscape for at least two decades.

Former N.C. Sen. John Edwards, a South Carolina native, has plied a populist message and concern for the nation's downtrodden as the centerpiece of his campaign. But that message has failed to ignite the voters as Obama's call for hope and change has.

Ideologically, Obama differs little from Clinton or Edwards. He plans to extricate the United States from Iraq, but cautiously. His catch-phrase is: "We need to be as careful in leaving Iraq as we were careless going in."

While he stresses that the loss of life and the toll on the U.S. military have been the worst consequences of the war, he also believes the economic damage resulting from spending billions of dollars each month on the war is severe.

Obama has a comprehensive health-care reform plan whose goal is to make health insurance available and affordable to all.

He views global warming not only as an environmental threat but also a threat to the economy and, ultimately, U.S. security. He would offer incentives to promote efficiency, invest in research in clean technology and institute a system designed to reduce carbon emissions.

He would seek a tax cut for middle-class families, as well as a tax credit of up to \$4,000 toward a college education. However, he would roll back President Bush's tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and raise the capital gains tax rate on those making more than \$250,000 a year.

But the principle reason we endorse Obama in Saturday's primary is because he appears to have the skills and the genuine desire to engender new hope, bring more people — especially younger voters — into the political process, bring the nation together and restore America's image around the globe.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Greenville News Endorses Barack Obama for Democrats (2008-01-23 16:13)

The Greenville News Endorses Barack Obama for President

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 01:59 PM

Yet another South Carolina newspaper, The Greenville News, has endorsed Barack Obama...

The Greenville News

The Greenville News endorses Barack Obama in Democratic primary
Obama could help nation face its challenges

Democrats in South Carolina go to the polls Saturday to pick their candidate in this state's presidential primary, one that follows by a week the Republicans' selection of John McCain in that party's primary contest. The Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary took their toll on some second-tier candidates, and the two viable candidates remaining on Saturday's ticket are Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois.

Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards could do reasonably well in South Carolina Saturday given this is his home state. But Edwards' 2008 campaign lacks the vibrancy of his effort four years ago. He bitterly replays his 2004 theme of two Americas, one rich and one poor, and his campaign appears to be sputtering.

This Democratic race really boils down to a contest between the first woman with a real chance of capturing a major party's nomination for president and the first African-American with an opportunity to do the same. The Greenville News endorses Barack Obama in Saturday's primary.

In this race that's ultimately about giving the Democratic Party its strongest candidate for the November general election, Barack Obama has emerged as one of the most attractive candidates on the political scene in decades. He has a refreshing lack of political guile, and he inspires with his words and with his life's story. His father came from Kenya, his mother from Kansas, and Obama was born in Hawaii. He has moved easily between different cultures, and he has said before that his life built on diverse experiences has prepared him to be a political leader devoted to uniting people and seeking common solutions.

Obama brings characteristics to this primary that lift up many people and elevate their sense of hope. He is not a hardened ideologue. While he does not minimize his Democratic Party roots, he talks openly and encouragingly of wanting to get "Democrats, Republicans and independents to work constructively on problems instead of (trying) to score political points."

He could help Washington move past its stubborn and destructive partisan politics. As he said in an editorial board meeting at this newspaper, "The politics we have seen and grown accustomed to over the past 20 years have not been productive." That's so true.

In the area of experience, Hillary Clinton has a slight edge over Obama given a lengthier resume that includes advocating for children's issues, her proximity to power during her husband's two terms as president, and her Senate career that began in 2001. Clinton is an exceptionally sharp politician, by all accounts a hard worker, and is a strong advocate for issues dear to the hearts of many Democrats.

All but Clinton's harshest critics could see her ably fulfilling the duties of the president of the United States, and that includes her serving as the commander in chief during a national crisis. But despite whatever positive attributes Clinton could bring to the White House, she would undeniably continue this country's politics of division. A most telling point has emerged over the past week, when Clinton has roasted Obama — and twisted his words — for daring to state that Ronald Reagan was a transformational political figure who realigned this nation's politics. Our country doesn't need another four years, or eight years, of divide-and-conquer politics.

On the major issues facing the nation, the Democrats are remarkably close in their positions, and it must be added, many of these positions run counter to those often expressed by this

newspaper on this opinion page. The major Democratic candidates want us out of Iraq, but with slightly different timetables. They want tax policies that reflect the Democratic Party's agenda, and they want to stimulate a faltering economy by putting more money into the pockets of more Americans, especially low-income Americans who don't pay income taxes. The Democratic candidates also want to provide health care for all Americans, although again with slightly different approaches.

In this race to capture to the Democratic Party's nomination, Obama makes the most compelling case for his nomination when he describes the differences between himself and Sen. Clinton. She is more comfortable with the "Washington lobby culture," he told our editorial board, and as seen in the failed health-care campaign in 1993, she is comfortable operating behind closed doors and trying to demonize her opponents.

Obama's approach to governing would be based on openness, inclusiveness and transparency. That approach would serve our country well.

[EMBED]

Kerry Washington, Usher and Barack Obama SCSU

Action Center

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Five Top Social Networking Tips (2008-01-23 18:15)

Here are my five top social networking tips to support Barack Obama's run for president.

1. If you haven't already, create an Obama-friendly webpage on one of the social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, BlackPlanet, Migente, AsianAvenue, etc. You can download images and widgets to spruce up your site here. On Facebook, use the Obama application.
2. Add Barack Obama as a friend. Here are the links for a number of sites: ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕
3. Sites like Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn (non-web), BlackPlanet and Migente allow you to find, add and invite friends and contacts using your web email address book, or a contacts file created by exporting your address book to a CSV or similar file. Click on the hypertext link for each site to use this feature. For MySpace, click on "Invite" located on the menu bar.
4. Some of the sites allow you to find friends and contacts using your instant messenger or searching your high school, college or workplace network.

5. Post an occasional news item, blog or other update on your page to let people know what is happening in the campaign.

Obama Campaign Stops in South Carolina

Kingstree– Jan 24

Beaufort – Jan 24

North Charleston – Jan 24

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

New Mexico fires up for Barack Obama (2008-01-23 20:10)

From barackobama.com:

A New Beginning: New Mexico Officials Endorse Barack

by Zach Edwards

, Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 07:31 PM

X

Here at the Obama campaign in New Mexico, things are starting to heat up. Today, 17 elected New Mexico leaders publically endorsed Barack Obama for President. We have been seeing a tremendous outpouring of volunteers who have been mobilizing and organizing our grassroots for months, and who have committed to getting their friends, family, and neighbors to stand up for change on February 5th. Our new offices are filling with volunteers and it's clear that New Mexico is ready to get involved and take back Washington with Barack Obama.

The endorsements today demonstrate our broad geographic support across the state, and the desire for change that is sweeping across the Land of Enchantment. The officials include State Treasurer James Lewis, former State Representative Patsy Trujillo, former U.S. Senator Fred Harris, and House Majority Leader Ken Martinez.

"I admire Barack Obama because he doesn't just tell people what they want to hear but what they need to know even when it is not politically popular," said State Treasurer, James Lewis. "I'm supporting Barack Obama because he has a compelling vision to change the way Washington works so that it finally addresses the problems Americans face," said Lewis.

"After Bill Richardson ended his bid for president I took a careful look at all of the candidates. But Barack Obama stands out because he has proven that he is the only candidate who can unify the country to bring

change - and bring all Americans together regardless of race, party, or creed, and I am proud to support his campaign," said former Representative Patsy Trujillo.

"Our economy is in peril and Barack Obama, months ago, laid out a plan to get the economy moving by helping the middle class families that really need it, combating the mortgage crisis and reinstating faith in our government," said State Representative Peter Wirth.

Obama Leadership Counsel Co-Chairs:

The Honorable James Lewis, State Treasurer

The Honorable Fred Harris, former U.S. Senator

The Honorable Patsy Trujillo, former State Representative

Mr. John Pound, Civil Rights Attorney

Elected Officials

State Representative Al Park, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Albuquerque

State Representative Peter Wirth, Santa Fe

State Representative Joseph Cervantes, Las Cruces

State Representative W. Ken Martinez, House Majority Leader, Grants

State Representative Antonio Lujan, Las Cruces

State Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton, House Majority Whip, Albuquerque

State Representative Antonio "Moe" Maestas, Albuquerque

Mr. Robert Rosebrough, former Mayor of Gallup, New Mexico

Mr. Javier Gonzales, former Santa Fe County Commissioner

Mr. Max Coll, former State Representative, Santa Fe

Mr. Damon Ely, former Sandoval County Commissioner

Mr. Jim Baca, former Mayor of Albuquerque

Mr. Michael Cadigan, City Council Member of Albuquerque

Come visit us at one of our offices across New Mexico, Join the Movement, and get involved to take back Washington!



Make calls to February 5th voters



Organize your community



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Cost of the Iraq War (2008-01-23 22:01)

The Iraq War, opposed by Barack Obama from the start, but authorized by his opponents may end up costing between \$1 - \$2 trillion even if the war ends in the next few years.

Here is a breakdown of the costs as provided by nationalpriorities.org:

- \$275 million per day
- \$4,100 per household
- Almost 4,000 U.S. soldiers killed and more than 60,000 wounded
- 700,000 Iraqis killed and 4 million refugees
- Money spent on Iraq could on a yearly basis provide 39 million people with health care, build 13,842 new elementary schools or build 1,070,377 affordable housing units.

[click here to learn more](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Thursday (2008-01-24 09:01)

The Washington Post reports that the Obama campaign is concentrating on six small caucus states as part of its Tsunami Tuesday strategy.

Obama's staff believes that Obama's grassroots style and organizing is well suited to caucus-type elections after good performances in Iowa and Nevada. Three of the states targeted are Minnesota, Colorado and Kansas.

In Kansas, there are reports that Gov. Kathleen Sebelius might be ready to endorse Obama after she delivers the Democratic response to the State of the Union address on Monday.

[EMBED]

Obama supporters get out the vote in South Carolina

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



WaPo: Barack's economic solution gets highest grade (2008-01-24 10:13)

The Washington Post's Ruth Marcus graded the economic stimulus plans of the three Democratic candidates:

The Washington Post

Barack Obama: A-minus. I criticized his previous tax plan, but Obama is at the head of the class with an intelligently designed, \$120 billion stimulus plan. He would speed a \$250 tax credit to most workers, followed by another \$250, triggered automatically, if the economy continues on its sour path. Obama would direct a similar rebate to low- and middle-income seniors, who are also apt to spend and could get checks quickly. One demerit: Obama omits any increase in food stamp benefits, which Moody's estimates would have the greatest bang for the buck, \$1.73 for every dollar spent.

John Edwards: B-minus. Edwards gets points for handing in his paper early – in December, he issued a \$25 billion stimulus proposal (plus \$75 billion more if needed), including important help to states to avoid cutting Medicaid rolls. But like Hillary Clinton (see below), he would spend too much money on programs – investing in "green collar" jobs, for instance – with too long a lag time to make them an effective stimulus. Edwards's grade goes down because he also hasn't explained how the \$75 billion would be spent.

Hillary Clinton: C-plus. Clinton, too, raised the issue early, then turned in a faulty first draft with a \$70 billion stimulus plan that didn't provide much immediate stimulation. It included a \$25 billion increase in the program to help low-income Americans with heating costs – an excessive amount (the current program is under \$3 billion) that probably wouldn't kick in until next winter. Even worse was her housing plan, including a five-year freeze on subprime mortgage rates that could produce higher interest rates and reduce liquidity.

Obama Campaign Stops in South Carolina

Kingstree– Jan 24

Beaufort – Jan 24

North Charleston – Jan 24

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X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama Events in South Carolina (2008-01-24 12:54)

Stand for Change with Barack Obama

North Charleston High School Gymnasium

1087 East Montague Avenue

North Charleston, SC 29405

Thursday, January 24, 2008

Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Program begins: 7:30 p.m. Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Outdoor Amphitheater

Entrance by Carillon Gardens

Clemson University
Clemson, SC

Friday, January 25

Doors open: 2:30 p.m.

Program begins: 4:30 p.m. Stand for Change Pee Dee Rally with Barack Obama in Florence

Florence City-County Civic Center
3300 West Radio Drive
Florence, SC

Friday, January 25, 2008

Doors open: 6:20 p.m. Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Koger Center for the Arts
University of South Carolina
1051 Greene St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Friday, January 25

Doors open: 8:45 p.m.

Program begins: 10:45 p.m.

A Conversation with MICHELLE OBAMA (Meeting)

Friday, January 25 at 10:00 AM

Central Oak Grove Baptist Church (Hilton Head Island, SC)

Women for Obama invite you to A Conversation with Michelle Obama

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)

For security reasons, do not bring bags. No signs or banners permitted.

These events are free and open to the public; however an RSVP is strongly encouraged.
Further details to be announced as they become available.

Host a South Carolina Watch Party



Make calls to February 5th voters



Organize your community



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Santa Cruz Sentinel backs Barack Obama (2008-01-24 15:49)

The Santa Cruz Sentinel from the Bay Area of California endorsed Barack Obama today.

January 24, 2008

As We See It: Obama our choice – Candidate brings new ideas, crossover appeal that would end Bush-Clinton political dynasties Sentinel Staff Report

Is this truly the year of meaningful political change in America?

We think so. We hope so.

And although both of the leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination would, if elected, be historic firsts for this country, we support Sen. Barack Obama in the Feb. 5 California presidential primary.

Sentinel elections coverage

Obama, much like his main rival, Sen. Hillary Clinton, has considerable strengths and some obvious weaknesses.

But his potential and the chance he brings to move forward unencumbered by the last 20 years of the Bush-Clinton political dynasties is significant and telling.

Moreover, Obama by his very background is that rare politician whose appeal crosses boundaries and heals divides. And his experience, while not on the same executive scope as Mrs. Clinton's, is formidable, as a community activist and organizer, as a lawyer working to advance civil rights, and as a state legislator. He comes from humble circumstances that span race, ethnicity and culture and his unique ability to get people to listen, to consider a different way of thinking bodes well for the kind of unifying, rather than polarizing, leadership this country needs.

It is this very background and political style that could revive and strengthen America's standing world-wide, a position that has been diminished under our current president.

The biggest knock on Obama is a lack of experience in foreign affairs and at the executive level. But, truthfully, presidents who have had this kind of experience – Nixon and George Walker Bush come immediately to mind – had their share of missteps, too.

Obama currently trails Clinton in the California polls and needs a win in South Carolina on Saturday to regain momentum. Former Sen. John Edwards lags significantly behind both.

Still, if change is what you want, it was Obama who opposed the Iraq war early on, not Clinton.

And there is something unsettling – and, OK, entertaining as well – at seeing Bill Clinton leading the charge against Obama. This country has been governed by a Bush, a Clinton, a Bush and now ... another Clinton? Both Clintons?

No thanks.

No one doubts that Hillary Clinton is smart, tough and a committed campaigner. The Clintons know how to win elections. In a time of economic downturn, the James Carville slogan for Clinton I, "It's the economy, stupid," might again prove irresistible.

But we don't think this country needs a reprise of 1993-2000.

Instead, we support Obama for the Democratic nomination as the candidate who truly appeals to people's best instincts, for their country and for the future.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Herald (SC) endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-24 16:10)

The Herald, the daily newspaper of Rock Hill, South Carolina today picked Barack Obama as the best choice for Democrats.

Obama is best choice in Democratic primary By Staff Reports · heraldonline.com FTP

Barack Obama, at 46, could have waited four or even eight years to run for the presidency, but decided that this year's campaign was his moment.

We think he was right; his candidacy is ideally suited for this point in the nation's history. Obama, more than any other candidate in either party, has based his campaign on the promise of positive change in Washington and an effort to heal the caustic partisan rift that divides not only the nation's capital but also much of the nation.

The promise of change is nothing unique in the rhetoric of the stump. But we think Obama brings both a unique biography and an impressive set of skills to this campaign.

Obama, son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, is the first African-American to contend seriously for the presidency. As a child, he lived for four years in predominantly Muslim Indonesia before moving with his mother to Hawaii. And after graduating from Columbia University in 1983, he deferred the pursuit of a career to work as a community organizer for a church-based group in the poor neighborhoods of Chicago.

As he notes himself, he would bring a new face to the presidency, a new face representing the United States to the rest of the world. That, alone, is a significant recommendation for his candidacy.

But he also possesses considerable charisma and oratorical skills. He is coolly rational – perhaps to a fault. His deliberative responses to questions sometimes do not lend themselves to sound bites or serve him well in debates. But that thoughtfulness derives from an apparent depth of intelligence.

His experience has been questioned. But he claims foreign policy expertise – more, he says, than Ronald Reagan or Bill Clinton had when they first ran – as a member of the Senate foreign relations committee and as one who has traveled extensively and understands the world.

He also boasts political experience. In 1996, he won a seat in the Illinois Senate, where he served for eight years. In 2004, he was elected by a landslide to the U.S. Senate.

He concedes that he lacks administrative experience, but said that putting together a \$100 million campaign says something about his organizational and leadership skills.

We trust that Obama's chief Democratic opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, would bring a wealth of experience to the White House. As she claims, she would be ready for the job "on day one."

But we believe, because of her association with her husband's two administrations, that she also would bring the baggage of polarization and bitter rhetoric that has dominated the political landscape for at least two decades.

Former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, a South Carolina native, has plied a populist message and concern for the nation's downtrodden as the centerpiece of his campaign. But that message has failed to ignite the voters as Obama's call for hope and change has.

Ideologically, Obama differs little from Clinton or Edwards. He plans to extricate the United States from Iraq, but cautiously. His catch-phrase is: "We need to be as careful in leaving Iraq as we were careless going in."

While he stresses that the loss of life and the toll on the U.S. military have been the worst consequences of the war, he also believes the economic damage resulting from spending billions of dollars each month on the war is severe.

Obama has a comprehensive health-care reform plan whose goal is to make health insurance available and affordable to all.

He views global warming not only as an environmental threat but also a threat to the economy and, ultimately, U.S. security. He would offer incentives to promote efficiency, invest in research in clean tech-

nology and institute a system designed to reduce carbon emissions.

He would seek a tax cut for middle-class families, as well as a tax credit of up to \$4,000 toward a college education. However, he would roll back President Bush's tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and raise the capital gains tax rate on those making more than \$250,000 a year.

But the principal reason we endorse Obama in Saturday's primary is because he appears to have the skills and the genuine desire to engender new hope, bring more people – especially younger voters – into the political process, bring the nation together and restore America's image around the globe.

The Road to Change: South Carolina (2008-01-24 18:25)

From barackobama.com:



[EMBED]

The Student

Benedict College senior Joshua Stroman on why his generation is inspired by Obama.

[EMBED]

The Barbershop

At Emerson's Barber Shop in Marion, SC, talk turns to the Iraq War and the need for real leadership.

[EMBED]

The House Meeting

At house meetings across South Carolina, neighbors gather to talk about how to change their country.

[EMBED]

The Trendsetter

Grace Cusack reflects on her house meeting - and how things have changed in her neighborhood - in Florence, South Carolina.

[EMBED]

Obama Teams

Volunteers across the state assume leadership positions to get out the word about Obama.

[EMBED]

The Civil Rights Activist

She marched for civil rights, and now Annie Bennett is standing up again: no bingo until Barack becomes president.

[EMBED]

Oprah

Ms. Winfrey joins the Obamas to address a huge crowd at the University of South Carolina's football stadium.
[EMBED]

The Reverend

On the eve of the South Carolina primary, Rev. Randolph Scipio and Kathleen Fox talk to voters in North Charleston.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



SC Black News Endorses Barack (2008-01-24 22:50)

SC Black News Endorses Barack

by T. Neil Sroka, SC Obama Staff,

Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 09:40 PM

The *SC Black News*, the largest African American paper in South Carolina, joined *The State*, the *Rock Hill Herald*, and the *Greenville News* in endorsing Barack for the Democratic Presidential nomination.



SC Black News endorses Barack Obama

South Carolina's largest African American newspaper announces their endorsement of Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Senator Obama's message has remained consistent throughout this arduous process and throughout his career. His intent to hold the office of President appears to be genuinely selfless and not ego-driven, but driven by the need to bring this country, and the world together. We find him to be the most qualified to lift this country out of the despair and his approach to the political process refreshing and inspiring. Race has little to do with our endorsement. It is the content of the message and the character of the candidates that has moved us in this direction. Senator Clinton and Senator Edwards bring many fresh ideas to the table and we respect their candidacies, but neither brings the kind of hope and vision we feel necessary to navigate our country successfully through the perilous challenges that lie ahead.

While the differences in the democratic candidates' positions are really quite small, the tactics in which they have been delivered have undeniably influenced popular opinion. It may be impossible to negate the fact that when spokespeople are speaking off the cuff on your behalf, some less than diplomatic statements and responses may occur. However, Senator Clinton's camp has repeatedly employed questionable attacks on Senator Obama's character that have no place in the new political millennium as it relates to the racial divide.

In her eagerness to point out how white presidents can get things done, she in effect relegated Dr. King's sacrifice for racial equality to nothing more than a supportive role. And that came directly out of her mouth, not her husband's, a politico supporter's or a celebrity hired gun designed to reach out to the African American population. If indeed the barrage of attacks are unscripted and not part of a larger strategy to undermine Senator Obama, then they are at best indicative of a much larger problem. If she

is unable to control and steer her campaign clear of divisive political disparages, how can she be expected to effectively run a country amid great partisan divide on varying critical issues? Senator Edwards has not availed himself to Black News after repeated attempts to establish a report. His message is strong in that he is for worker's rights, the less privileged, the unemployed and the underemployed, but his lack of effort to reach out to our readership has greatly influenced our position with his overall campaign.

Obama has proven himself to be unaffected by insider political maneuvering. He politically strives to bring constructive dialogue to a problem and is truly a man of vision and embodies the spirit of cooperation that has eluded us for the past seven years. In a speech given last fall, Obama said, "What we cannot continue to do is operate as if we are the weakest nation in the world instead of the strongest one, because that's not who we are and that's not what the US has been about, historically. It is starting to warp our domestic policies, as well. We haven't even talked about civil liberties and the impact of that politics of fear-what that has done to us, in terms of undermining basic civil liberties in this country, what it has done in terms of our reputation around the world." He has proven that through hard work, commitment and sound reason, we can come together as a nation to correct the evils that plague us, both domestically and abroad.

We feel his ability to work with both sides of the aisle far eclipses the other candidates' ability to effectively run a bi-partisan government and bring our country out of the darkness that now surrounds it. We believe Obama has the integrity and clarity needed to steer clear of such harmful digression and he will be able to affect change that can enrich us all. He has worked for civil rights, human rights and women's rights throughout his career in activism, law and politics. It is his commitment to equality for all Americans that resonates with us - and the country.

Senator Obama's record as a person who will work for change, champion those who need it most while maintaining an integral, innate sense of justice speaks for itself. Experience has been one of the most debated topics among the democrats. As a civil rights attorney and professor of constitutional law, Obama has a keen understanding and deep appreciation of our nation's core values and guiding principles. Obama will be a fierce defender of the fundamental American values of freedom and equality under law. He has very strong support in the African American community and speaks forthrightly about racial issues and has a great deal of history and experience in civil rights-oriented struggles. In many ways, he breaks that mold of the politician who softens his message in order to appeal to a wide range of voters. Let's level the economic field for everyone, not just the rich and the privileged. Let's withdraw our troops from Iraq and begin the healing process we so desperately need. Let's make health care and medicines available to everyone who needs them, make housing affordable and keep our jobs in America. Let's educate our children and take care of our veterans and seniors. Despite decades of progress, women still make only 77 cents for every dollar men make. Obama believes the government needs to better enforce the Equal Pay Act, fight job discrimination, and improve child care options and family medical leave to give women equal footing in the workplace.

And last but not least, we have to consider electability in November. Clinton does not automatically enjoy the position as the most popular candidate. We feel she will be unable to sway the considerable number of moderate voters needed for a Democratic victory. In contrast, Obama is able to inspire all walks of people from different social-economic backgrounds and has single handedly rejuvenated the country's belief in a democracy that has the people's best interests at heart, not multi-nationals, defense contractors and special interest groups. He has awakened a cadre of young Americans to the philosophies of elective politics and inspired many to register for the first time in their lives. Obama is clearly the choice if we are to change the direction of this country from a selfish, greed-driven nation to one of peace and justice for all.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Daily Gamecock endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-24 23:23)

The Daily Gamecock is the campus newspaper of the University of South Carolina.

Gamecaucus: Democratic Endorsement

Obama sets standard for unity, cooperation

With three frontrunners it could be hard to narrow it down to one clear winner.

But for our editorial board one quality and, with that, one name topped the list.

The Democratic candidate must be able to bridge party lines to bring consensus to the U.S. Too long has America suffered under the "us versus them" mentality in Washington.

But only one candidate can unite the public and parties. For this single ability above the rest, we endorse Barack Obama as the Democratic candidate for the state primary.

Obama promises to carefully and sensibly withdraw from Iraq, and his plans for health care will cover any student under 25 on their parents' health care plans.

His plans in education are even more admirable, providing more qualified teachers and making college affordable under the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Obama's so-called "lack" of experience is of no consequence. Obama has experience in the areas that count for our university, our state and our nation. Working in grassroots efforts in Chicago, the senator has seen the hopes and dreams of American people and the obstacles they face.

He has known the pinch of every student loan bill in the mail and knows the fear associated with the lack of adequate health care.

And it only takes a quick look around D.C. to see what's gone terribly wrong and how it can be fixed; Obama has had four years. In 2004, Obama said in his unforgettable Democratic National Convention speech that the bedrock of our nation is in "hope in the face of uncertainty" and "a belief that there are better days ahead."

And our hopes lie with Barack Obama

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Modesto Bee backs Barack Obama (2008-01-25 08:33)

The Modesto Bee, a daily in the Central Valley of California, endorsed Barack Obama today.



Modesto Bee backs Obama in California Democratic primary

last updated: January 25, 2008 06:40:55 AM

Your vote has been counted, thank you for voting. [BUTTON]



IFRAME: communication_iframe

It is looking as if the Democratic Party will break historic barriers this year. If the nominee for president is Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York or Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, as seems likely, either a woman or an African-American will be a major party's nominee for the first time. Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards remains in the race, but is polling and running a distant third. The small field gives California Democrats and independents an interesting choice Feb. 5.

We believe Obama is the strongest of the three, offering inspiring leadership and an openness to ideas that has been missing in the current administration.

He has less time in the Senate than the others, but he had some very effective years as a legislator in the Illinois statehouse. His experience as a community organizer, which he refers to frequently, gave him an insight into ending cycles of poverty. So he talks not just about government programs but also about initiatives to promote personal responsibility.

His own childhood gives him a worldly perspective that transcends old ethnic barriers. Although well-educated, with a Harvard law degree, he also has an intuitive sense of people and issues.

On some issues important to the valley and California, Obama holds moderate views and the potential to work with representatives from both parties to get something accomplished. He is a co-sponsor of the agriculture guest worker bill that would help assure valley farms get the workers they need to harvest crops. He supports California's effort to impose stiffer greenhouse gas regulations.

It is unfortunate that the Democratic race has gotten so mean-spirited in recent days. Until then, Obama had been consistently poised and focused.

We still believe that he, more than Clinton, will be able to ease the partisan battles that have become so common.

Hillary and Bill Clinton have been both victims and aggressors in some of the polarized politics. Obama, in contrast, has no old scores to settle. His ascension would represent a clean break with the generation that has fought and re-fought the Vietnam War and the cultural upheavals that wracked the 1960s.

Obama was an early opponent of the war in Iraq, because he thought it was a strategic blunder that would only hurt the United States. His credibility on that issue would position him well to end the occupation quickly while also giving him the flexibility to extend it if necessary to avoid shedding the blood of more innocent Iraqis.

Obama's lack of experience at the highest levels of government is more than offset by his character, energy and core values – values on which he has been consistent for years. Obama is the best choice for the Democratic nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack thanks Heidi in Beaufort (2008-01-25 11:29)

Barack Obama personally thanks field organizer Heidi Johnson-Young in Beaufort, South Carolina.
[EMBED]

Make calls to February 5th voters



Organize your community



Obama Events in South Carolina

Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Outdoor Amphitheater
Entrance by Carillon Gardens
Clemson University
Clemson, SC

Friday, January 25

Doors open: 2:30 p.m.

Program begins: 4:30 p.m. Stand for Change Pee Dee Rally with Barack Obama in Florence

Florence City-County Civic Center
3300 West Radio Drive
Florence, SC

720

Friday, January 25, 2008

Doors open: 6:20 p.m. Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Koger Center for the Arts
University of South Carolina
1051 Greene St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Friday, January 25

Doors open: 8:45 p.m.

Program begins: 10:45 p.m.

A Conversation with MICHELLE OBAMA (Meeting)

Friday, January 25 at 10:00 AM

Central Oak Grove Baptist Church (Hilton Head Island, SC)

Women for Obama invite you to A Conversation with Michelle Obama

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)

For security reasons, do not bring bags. No signs or banners permitted.

These events are free and open to the public; however an RSVP is strongly encouraged.

Further details to be announced as they become available.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Politics of Hope rather than Division (2008-01-25 14:03)

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this message today.

In less than 24 hours, voters in South Carolina will head to the polls.

Before they do, I wanted to show you a bit about what kind of campaign we're running here.

When Michelle and I talked about my running for president, one of the core goals we both had for this campaign was to leave the political process better off than we found it.

Here in South Carolina, a state with a history of some pretty divisive politics, ordinary people have challenged conventional thinking about the process and built a statewide organization based on local community organizing and neighbor-to-neighbor contacts.

Our supporters – men and women of all ages, races, religions, and backgrounds – have come together around the idea that we are one people, invested in each other and in our common future.

We've put together a few videos that will give you a sense of what we've built here – please take a look:



<http://my.barackobama.com/organize>

In communities across this state, people who have never been involved in politics before – or who had given up on what they saw as a broken system – have built something special.

No matter what the outcome tomorrow, our work here will have a lasting impact on those communities and on the Democratic Party for a long time to come.

We're seeing the same story play out across the country as grassroots supporters in 22 states prepare to cast their votes or turn out to caucus on February 5th.

Remember that tomorrow night, after the votes are in from South Carolina, the playing field will expand dramatically as races in those states come into full focus.

There will be a lot happening, and the intensity will be ratcheted up.

But the spirit of the grassroots organizing we have done here – of ordinary people taking back the political process – will be apparent in thousands of communities across the country.

I believe more strongly than ever that this movement for change can do more than just win an election. Together, we can transform this country.

Thank you for being part of this,

Barack

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Sun-Sentinel endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-25 15:01)

The Sun-Sentinel of South Florida endorsed Barack Obama today.



Obama: A worthy choice

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

4:38 PM EST, January 25, 2008

Disappointingly, the Democrat presidential candidates kept their pledge to not campaign in Florida. The Democratic National Committee has also warned that Florida's primary this Tuesday won't count toward assignment of delegates to this summer's national convention.'

Nonetheless, there is a vote, and it's an important one for a host of reasons. Not least of which is that whoever wins the popular vote in the Sunshine State, a place that has been a house of horrors for the party in the past two presidential elections, can claim to be the popular front-runner headed into Super

Tuesday.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board recommends voters choose Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. Obama is in his first term in the U.S. Senate. He splashed onto the national political stage with a stirring speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, a speech that catapulted him from being an obscure state senator to what is now a historic and inspiring presidential candidacy.

Obama, 46, is characteristically a cool-headed yet passionate politician who could transform the mood of the country with his message of hope and change. He and his opponents - U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and John Edwards, a former U.S. senator from North Carolina and the 2004 Democratic vice presidential nominee - have all pledged to end the Iraq war, reform health care and bridge the gap between the rich and poor. They are all well-versed on government policy and international affairs. But what sets Obama apart is his ability to spark passion in the American people, who are ultimately the ones with the power to make real change.

Clinton, a two-term senator and wife of former President Bill Clinton, has proven her ability to win among Democrats through victories in New Hampshire and Nevada. But she is also a polarizing figure, based on baggage from her husband's presidency, and would have difficulty gaining the support of Republicans and Independents. Edwards, a former trial lawyer, trails far behind the two other candidates in the polls and has yet to win a primary.

Campaign transcends race

The three are in a competitive race that's been brutal at times, but it hasn't diminished Obama's image as a reconciling figure who can bring the country together.

Instead of relying on racial politics, the bi-racial son of a black Kenyan father and white Kansas mother, Obama has chosen to transcend race. His strong victory in predominantly white Iowa turned the election on its head, due to support from voters of both genders and all political persuasions. Turnout among new and young voters was phenomenal.

Obama is not only a man of lofty ideas and eloquent speech; he is also a leader with good judgment as the only candidate among the three contenders who publicly opposed the Iraq war from the beginning. As a state senator he called it "a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost with undetermined consequences."

If elected, Obama has pledged to pull all U.S. combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months of his administration, while keeping some troops in the country to protect our embassy and diplomats and strike against al-Qaida if necessary.

To tackle the immigration problem, he would secure the borders, remove incentives to enter illegally and create a system to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for citizenship after paying a fine and learning English. He pledges to make health care more affordable for everyone and require mandatory coverage for all children.

To address the current economic crisis, he proposes a \$75 billion stimulus package to provide workers with an immediate \$250 tax credit and Social Security recipients with a one-time \$250 supplement. It would also include a \$10 billion fund to help homeowners facing foreclosures and a \$10 billion fund for states dealing with lower tax revenues.

Level of experience a concern

Some legitimately question Obama's level of experience. That's a concern in foreign policy issues, particularly. Obama's suggestion that he'd be willing to talk to U.S. rivals and foes is refreshing - to a point.

Sure, U.S. policy toward some countries, like Cuba, needs a new approach. But it's naive to think the diplomacy of talk would work magic on its own in other places, such as Tehran.

Obama's plan to pull all combat brigades out of Iraq within less than two years of his administration may also be a little too ambitious. The last thing we need is a failed state in Iraq, and every effort should be made to leave the country as stable as possible.

Obama unquestionably has the wherewithal to match the presidency's intellectual demands. He has a solid resume as a Harvard Law School graduate and was the first African-American editor of the Harvard Law Review. His background also includes work as a constitutional law professor, community organizer,

Illinois state senator and now a U.S. senator. His background may be different to many politicians in Washington, but that's part of what makes him so appealing. He could bring a fresh approach to the presidency as we face challenges of the 21st century.

Obama also has a multiethnic background that reflects America's diversity, and could project a more tolerant and progressive image to the rest of the world. He has already proven his ability to bring people of all walks of life together; imagine what he could do on an international stage.

What the nation needs most is someone with a good mix of experience, sound judgment and a potent dose of inspiration to move the country forward. Obama has what it takes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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San Jose Mercury News endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-25 16:34)

Silicon Valley's San Jose Mercury News, one of California's most respected and widely-read newspapers, just endorsed Barack Obama for Democrats.



Editorial: Obama best choice for Democrats

Mercury News Editorial

Article Launched: 01/25/2008 03:23:21 PM PST

America longs for a change of style, a change of policy and a change of heart. Sen. Barack Obama is the Democratic candidate with the best chance to unify the country and put it back on track. He is the candidate who can best restore the world's faith in America and America's faith in itself.

We recommend Obama as the Democratic nominee, believing that his political approach could eventually make as much history as being the first African American president.

The Democratic race is boiling down to two candidates, although former Sen. John Edwards vows to stay in the hunt until the convention.

Choosing between Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton will not be easy for Democrats in Silicon Valley. The candidates' positions and their centrist approach to potentially divisive issues are remarkably similar.

From a pure Valley perspective, Clinton has articulated a clearer agenda to unleash American innovation. We believe Obama understands the importance of this region to the national and world economy. Nevertheless, he could learn from Clinton on how to appeal to the Valley's entrepreneurial spirit.

But this election is about far more than Silicon Valley. And ultimately, the best way to make the Valley strong is to make America strong - at home and abroad.

What tips the scales in Obama's favor is the freshness of his approach and the lack of political baggage he would bring to the White House.

We don't agree with most of the aspersions Republicans cast upon Clinton. She has built a record of accomplishment and compromise in the Senate, winning the respect of past foes including, of all people, Newt Gingrich. But Clinton's perceived negatives will cloud the campaign, and some positions she has taken over the years appear to have been based on political expediency more than core values. With that history, it will be harder for her to be successful.

Obama would dramatically change the nation's approach to foreign policy and domestic issues. While the substance might not differ substantially from Clinton's in many areas, he would have more cross-over appeal to independents and Republicans, whose support will be needed to bring about significant change.

Obama is the only candidate who opposed the Iraq war from the outset. His ethnic background and his upbringing give him a unique world view. He has the best chance to change how the world looks at the United States and restore the respect it has squandered during the past eight years.

While Clinton has a deep understanding of health care issues, her failed attempt to reform the system during her husband's first term dogs her steps. She chose experts with similar views and did not broadly engage stakeholders, which made her end result easy to shoot down. Obama can start fresh, and seems to understand the urgency.

He also brings a solid approach to the issues of climate change, education, election reform and stem cell research.

The nagging doubt about Obama is his lack of experience. He has worked hard to prepare for the White House, and it's not clear another six years in the Senate would necessarily make him a better president. Ronald Reagan showed that the most effective presidents have clear vision, good judgment and the ability to spur change.

For Obama, the important thing will be surrounding himself with intelligent and experienced advisers with a range of viewpoints and no reluctance to disagree with him. Abraham Lincoln's "Team of Rivals" would be the example here. Then it's a matter of deciding when to heed experience and when to follow his own instincts. Obama is smart enough to make good choices.

The George W. Bush-era has been the most divisive period in American history since the 1960s. Barack Obama represents the voice of a new generation. He resonates much as John F. Kennedy did with his message of hope and challenge. He is the best choice to unify and inspire America.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video from South Carolina (2008-01-25 18:40)

From Florence, South Carolina

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

At a women's roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina.

[EMBED]

Action Center
Obama Mobile



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Huge crowds gather for pre-election rallies (2008-01-25 20:58)

A diverse crowd of about 5,000 people gathered earlier today at Clemson University in support of Sen. Barack Obama .





A large crowd has also gathered in Columbia for the final late night rally before tomorrow's primary in South Carolina.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Write a letter to the editor (2008-01-25 21:10)

Write a letter to the editor

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Friday, January 25, 2008 at 06:18 PM

If you're in a Feb 5 voting state, consider writing a letter to your area newspaper – it's one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard in your community and share your hope with your neighbors. Here are some of the newspapers and how you can get in touch and send in a letter...

- Birmingham News: <http://www.al.com/birminghamnews/info.ssf?lettereditor.html>
- Montgomery Advertiser: <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/customerservice/letter.htm>
- Tuscaloosa News: ben.windham@tuscaloosanews.com
- Anchorage Daily News: <http://www.adn.com/help/letters/>
- Arizona Daily Star: letters@azstarnet.com
- Arizona Republic: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/sendalletter.html>
- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette: <http://www2.arkansasonline.com/contact/voicesform/>
- Sacramento Bee: opinion@sacbee.com
- San Diego Union-Tribune: letters@uniontrib.com
- San Francisco Chronicle: letters@sfgchronicle.com
- Denver Post: openforum@denverpost.com
- Rocky Mountain News: letters@rockymountainnews.com
- Hartford Courant: letters@courant.com
- Delaware News Journal: <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=OPINION>
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: letters@ajc.com
- Savannah Morning News: letted@savannahnow.com
- Lawrence Journal World: http://www2.ljworld.com/submit/letter_to_the_editor/
- Wichita Eagle: letters@wichitaeagle.com
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: <http://mpls.startribune.com/dynamic/feedback/form.php>
- St. Paul Pioneer Press: letters@pioneerpress.com
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch: jameriley@post-dispatch.com
- Kansas City Star: letters@kcstar.com
- Santa Fe New Mexican: letters@sfnewmexican.com
- Albuquerque Tribune: editor@abqtrib.com
- Buffalo News: LetterToEditor@buffnews.com
- New York Sun: editor@nysun.com
- Oklahoman: yourviews@oklahoman.com
- Tulsa World: letters@tulsaworld.com
- Memphis Commercial Appeal: letters@commercialappeal.com
- Tennessean: <http://tennessean.com/SITES/OPINION/submit-editor.shtml>
- Salt Lake Tribune: letters@sltrib.com

Barack Obama's Plan to tackle the Housing Crisis (2008-01-25 21:23)

Barack Obama's Plan to Stimulate the Economy and Protect American Families

- Provide an immediate \$250 tax cut for workers and their families.
- Provide an immediate, temporary \$250 bonus to seniors in their Social Security checks.
- Provide an additional \$250 tax cut to workers and an additional \$250 to seniors if the economy continues to worsen
- Provide relief to homeowners hit by the housing crisis.
- Provide aid to states hardest-hit by the housing crisis to avoid a slash in services.
- Extend and expand Unemployment Insurance .

 [Click here to read Barack's economic stimulus plan.](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



South Carolina votes (2008-01-26 07:33)

The polls are open in South Carolina. Vote early.
Here is video from last night's big rally in Columbia.
[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Philadephia Inquirer endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-26 10:32)

As voters make their choice for Democratic nominee in South Carolina , Obama supporters will be glad to hear of another newspaper endorsement, this time from the Philadephia Inquirer.



Inquirer's Democratic endorsement for president: Obama
Change.

Democrats are so sure Americans want a change from the eight years they have endured under President Bush that the party thinks winning back the White House from the Republicans is virtually guaranteed.

But only if the right nominee is chosen for the office.

Barely a month into the calendar of caucuses and primaries, the field has been winnowed. Gone are Joe Biden, Bill Richardson, Chris Dodd and Dennis Kucinich. *Quixotic* is the only way to describe Mike Gravel's campaign heading to Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, when more than 20 states, including New Jersey and Delaware, will hold their caucuses and primaries.

John Edwards' hopes had hinged on the outcome of yesterday's primary in his home state of South Carolina. On the party's ticket for vice president in 2004, Edwards' populist style might have made him a formidable candidate in any other presidential election.

But not this one.

This year it's been hard for anyone to get traction against two candidates who would make history no matter which one is nominated - Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. In them, Democrats could choose as their nominee either the first woman or the first African American to become president.

But the choice is hard.

In some respects, Clinton is much better prepared than was her husband, Bill, when he, as Arkansas governor, was elected president in 1992. The senator from New York could be a strong leader, comparable to Britain's Margaret Thatcher, but with a compassion for children's issues that could glue the nation's focus on its most precious asset.

But in an election where *change* is the operative word, would the former first lady represent that? After two Bush presidencies, many Americans don't see change in a Clinton dynasty. Hillary's high negatives in polls may have more to do with her husband's behavior as president than anything she has done since. But those negatives suggest she could be a catalyst for division when the nation longs for unity.

Given that, **BARACK OBAMA** is the best Democrat to lead this nation past the nasty, partisan, Washington-as-usual politics that have blocked consensus on Iraq; politics that never blinked at the greedy, subprime mortgage schemes that could spawn a recession; politics that have greatly diminished our country's stature in the world.

Obama inspires people to action. And while inspiration alone isn't enough to get a job done, it's a necessary ingredient to begin the hard work.

Obama's appeal to Americans to have the audacity to hope, even in the face of tragedies such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, has fallen on fertile ground. Americans want desperately to believe they can overcome any difficulty - given the right leadership.

But the Illinois senator has shown on the campaign trail that he offers more than pretty words. In debates and speeches, he has provided details of a White House program that, with adjustments, could produce the outcomes this nation needs.

On the war, Obama wants to have all combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months, while maintaining a force in the region for targeted strikes on al-Qaeda. On the economy, he proposes tax credits for working families and a mortgage credit to help lower-income homeowners. He proposes a national health insurance exchange to help individuals purchase coverage. He wants to do better than No Child Left Behind to improve education.

The question is whether a first-term U.S. senator with no major record as an Illinois legislator is ready to be president. His life story says yes. This former community organizer knows how to bring people together to beat the odds. Others who seemed an unlikely fit rose to the occasion once in the Oval Office. Obama could do that, too.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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The Bohemian (CA) recommends Barack Obama (2008-01-26 14:18)

There are about 3 hours left before the South Carolina polls close.

The Bohemian, an alternative newspaper covering the North SF Bay Area in northern California is recommending Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

bohemian.com

Say You Want a Revolution?

Recommendations for the Feb. 5 California State Primary

Former president Bill Clinton made a surprise trip to U. C. Davis on Jan. 15, where some 11,000 college students crowded the campus' new athletic center to hear Clinton, the J.F.K. of their generation, re-envision the American Dream. The Clinton campaign had offered less than 24 hours to organize the event, hoping that a rough handful of 1,000 people might attend. That the total number was some 11 times their expectations speaks exactly to what young voters, and American voters in general, are rapaciously thirsty for: vision, leadership and even that workhorse of the current media blip, change.

Clinton spoke extemporaneously for over an hour that night, reminding the crowd who Americans are and what America is supposed to be. Were most of the students there that night—raucously repeating Clinton's name, screaming in adulation and stomping the floor like he is a rock star—Hillary supporters? An informal survey of the crowd says no. Televised news stories say no. Newspaper interviews say no. Blog entries after the event say no. They were, by and large, Bill Clinton supporters, buoyed aloft by childhood memories of a larger-than-life politician whose mistakes are filmed in haze when compared to his successes; who, as a leader, spoke regularly of hope; who reminded citizens of our noblest goals. And they are absolutely thirsty for such leadership today.

Many of those still on the fence about the Democratic presidential candidate are attracted to Hillary's "Ready to Go" slogan. There is a sense of childlike calm in thinking that since this mess is so big and so deep and so tall, someone who's been there before can clean up it, all. And have Bill there to help her do it. ("Billary!" was a consistent bellow from the college crowd.)

Hillary knows Washington, she knows the players, she knows how the sausage gets made. As you'll read in the argument below, that's exactly what's wrong with her. Given our current circumstances, it no longer seems wise to worry if the next president already knows how to find the washroom on the Oval Office floor. The right team can direct the president there.

The president, rather, needs to have an acute vision and leadership, ideas and values that match the highest principles. As wonderful as Bill Clinton is in hindsight and as ready to go as Hillary Clinton undoubtedly would be, we're recommending away from dynasty. We're recommending toward the future. That's the best vision. —Gretchen Giles

Proposition recommendations written by Gretchen Giles, Traci Hukill, Eric Johnson, Steve Palopoli and Paul Wagner.

Democratic Primary: Barack Obama

Obama has the vision to return the U.S. to itself

Bill Clinton and Al Gore erected a bridge to the new century. George W. Bush bombed it. We need to rebuild it.

If Barack Obama is elected, it will send the world a message that this is a new America: not the monocultural, aggressive, ugly America that we occupy this very moment, but one that is hopeful, forward-looking and engaged with a diverse planet. Hillary Clinton is less well-equipped for that job. For all of her strengths, she is essentially a policy wonk, with more scars than accomplishments from her Washington years. Failed health care initiatives, as well as her votes on Iraq, should give voters pause. Her condemnations of disgraceful national practices like water-boarding and extraordinary rendition came only after she was pressed on the campaign trail, when she could have been a leader in the Senate opposing the administration's conduct. Obama has been such a leader. The clarity of his ideas is rooted in the depth of his convictions. Even more important in this bleak political landscape, he has shown an extraordinary ability to inspire a broad range of Americans.

Obama has been primarily responsible for the rare buzz of excitement surrounding the 2008 primaries. This is often attributed to his prowess as a speechmaker, but it's a mistake to think of Obama as merely a great orator. Ever since Obama first captured the national spotlight with a show-stopper of a keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, what's electrified voters is the power and clarity of his ideas, and the sense that people get, when listening to him talk, that he is speaking the truth.

In a debate a few weeks ago, NBC's Tim Russert asked the candidates to describe the moment that they decided to run for office. Obama's response was by far the most memorable. He said he has struggled with the decision: "The most important question was not whether I could win the presidency," he said, "but whether I should."

At the same time that he is connecting in a heartfelt way with the people who hear him, Obama is putting forward some simple and powerful ideas. At the center of his campaign—as everyone knows—is the simple and profound notion that American politics is in need of a revolution.

"It's not the magnitude of our problems that concerns me the most," he says, "it's the smallness of our politics. Obama's promise is that he brings a vision, that he is a true leader. When he says, "I will bring the country together," he is talking once again about building a bridge. Americans know in their hearts that this is exactly what needs to be done if the country is going to be able to move forward again. It's a big job, and we believe Sen. Barack Obama can do it. We recommend voting for Barack Obama. —E. J.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Bohemian (CA) recommends Barack Obama (2008-01-26 14:18)

There are about 3 hours left before the South Carolina polls close.

The Bohemian, an alternative newspaper covering the North SF Bay Area in northern California is recommending Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

Say You Want a Revolution?

Recommendations for the Feb. 5 California State Primary

Former president Bill Clinton made a surprise trip to U. C. Davis on Jan. 15, where some 11,000 college students crowded the campus' new athletic center to hear Clinton, the J.F.K. of their generation, re-envision the American Dream. The Clinton campaign had offered less than 24 hours to organize the event, hoping that a rough handful of 1,000 people might attend. That the total number was some 11 times their expectations speaks exactly to what young voters, and American voters in general, are rapaciously thirsty for: vision, leadership and even that workhorse of the current media blip, change.

Clinton spoke extemporaneously for over an hour that night, reminding the crowd who Americans are and what America is supposed to be. Were most of the students there that night—raucously repeating Clinton's name, screaming in adulation and stomping the floor like he is a rock star—Hillary supporters? An informal survey of the crowd says no. Televised news stories say no. Newspaper interviews say no. Blog entries after the event say no. They were, by and large, Bill Clinton supporters, buoyed aloft by childhood memories of a larger-than-life politician whose mistakes are filmed in haze when compared to his successes; who, as a leader, spoke regularly of hope; who reminded citizens of our noblest goals. And they are absolutely thirsty for such leadership today.

Many of those still on the fence about the Democratic presidential candidate are attracted to Hillary's "Ready to Go" slogan. There is a sense of childlike calm in thinking that since this mess is so big and so deep and so tall, someone who's been there before can clean up it, all. And have Bill there to help her do it. ("Billary!" was a consistent bellow from the college crowd.)

Hillary knows Washington, she knows the players, she knows how the sausage gets made. As you'll read in the argument below, that's exactly what's wrong with her. Given our current circumstances, it no longer seems wise to worry if the next president already knows how to find the washroom on the Oval Office floor. The right team can direct the president there.

The president, rather, needs to have an acute vision and leadership, ideas and values that match the highest principles. As wonderful as Bill Clinton is in hindsight and as ready to go as Hillary Clinton undoubtedly would be, we're recommending away from dynasty. We're recommending toward the future. That's the best vision. —Gretchen Giles

Proposition recommendations written by Gretchen Giles, Traci Hukill, Eric Johnson, Steve Palopoli and Paul Wagner.

Democratic Primary: Barack Obama

Obama has the vision to return the U.S. to itself

Bill Clinton and Al Gore erected a bridge to the new century. George W. Bush bombed it. We need to rebuild it.

If Barack Obama is elected, it will send the world a message that this is a new America: not the monocultural, aggressive, ugly America that we occupy this very moment, but one that is hopeful, forward-looking and engaged with a diverse planet. Hillary Clinton is less well-equipped for that job. For all of her strengths, she is essentially a policy wonk, with more scars than accomplishments from her Washington years. Failed health care initiatives, as well as her votes on Iraq, should give voters pause. Her condemnations of disgraceful national practices like water-boarding and extraordinary rendition came only after she was pressed on the campaign trail, when she could have been a leader in the Senate opposing the

administration's conduct. Obama has been such a leader. The clarity of his ideas is rooted in the depth of his convictions. Even more important in this bleak political landscape, he has shown an extraordinary ability to inspire a broad range of Americans.

Obama has been primarily responsible for the rare buzz of excitement surrounding the 2008 primaries. This is often attributed to his prowess as a speechmaker, but it's a mistake to think of Obama as merely a great orator. Ever since Obama first captured the national spotlight with a show-stopper of a keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, what's electrified voters is the power and clarity of his ideas, and the sense that people get, when listening to him talk, that he is speaking the truth.

In a debate a few weeks ago, NBC's Tim Russert asked the candidates to describe the moment that they decided to run for office. Obama's response was by far the most memorable. He said he has struggled with the decision: "The most important question was not whether I could win the presidency," he said, "but whether I should."

At the same time that he is connecting in a heartfelt way with the people who hear him, Obama is putting forward some simple and powerful ideas. At the center of his campaign—as everyone knows—is the simple and profound notion that American politics is in need of a revolution.

"It's not the magnitude of our problems that concerns me the most," he says, "it's the smallness of our politics. Obama's promise is that he brings a vision, that he is a true leader. When he says, "I will bring the country together," he is talking once again about building a bridge. Americans know in their hearts that this is exactly what needs to be done if the country is going to be able to move forward again. It's a big job, and we believe Sen. Barack Obama can do it. We recommend voting for Barack Obama. —E. J.

X

St. Louis Post-Dispatch picks Obama (2008-01-26 15:19)

The full endorsement is not online yet, but the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the largest newspaper in Missouri, is recommending Barack Obama.

We disagree with the details of some of Mr. Obama's legislative proposals, particularly his heavy reliance on insurance companies as part of an overhaul of national health policy. But we are comforted by his legislative career in Springfield and in Washington, where he worked diligently across party lines, seeking common ground and, often, finding it. He offers a welcome return to civility and cooperation.

We're afraid that wouldn't be the case with his principal opponent for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York. She has been a diligent senator since her election in 2001, but she is a lightning rod. There is a difference, too, between seeking consensus and "triangulating" core principles into positions palatable to campaign donors.

And we confess to a certain "Clinton fatigue." The emergence of the former president as the Luca Brasi of the campaign trail reminds us of the worst of the Clinton years: the divisiveness and the bickering; the too-casual, if artful, blend of truth and half-truth. We're not eager for the replay. As to John Edwards, the former senator from North Carolina, he is the right man at the wrong time, a star whose light is eclipsed by the tail of a comet.

Comets don't come around that often. In January of 1961, Ann Dunham Obama was six weeks pregnant with Barack Obama Sr.'s child when President Kennedy said at his inauguration that "the torch has been passed to a new generation." It's that time again.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Chicago Tribune endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-26 15:27)

A big one. The Chicago Tribune has just endorsed Barack Obama.

For the Democrats: Obama

January 27, 2008

In 1996, this page endorsed a Chicago attorney, law school instructor and community activist named Barack Obama for a seat in the Illinois Senate. We've paid him uncommon scrutiny ever since, wryly glad that he lived up to our modest prediction: We said Obama "has potential as a political leader."

Since then, so much has been written about U.S. Sen. Barack Obama that it's easy to forget how far an entire nation's scrutiny of him "as a political leader" has led us all. No longer does every article obsess on whether voters are ready for a black man in the White House.

Most Americans, we'd wager, by now have concluded that the color of his skin matters less than his evident comfort within it. Yes, he is vilified by less-secure Democrats for acknowledging Ronald Reagan was a transformative president who "put us on a fundamentally different path because the country was ready for it." Our takeaway: Obama has the confidence to speak truth, poll-tested or not.



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Barack Obama is the rare individual who can sit in the U.S. Senate yet have his career potential unfulfilled. He is the Democrat best suited to lead this nation. We offer him our endorsement for the Feb. 5 Illinois primary.

By one measure, this endorsement is a paradox. We're urging votes for a candidate whose political views we often disagree with. But this is a more complicated contest, and a more complex candidate, than the norm. This nation's next president inherits a war—against terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere—that has found many ways to divide Americans. Capitol Hill is gridlocked and uncivil. Our discourse is hostage to blame.

Obama can help this nation move forward. A Tribune profile last May labeled his eight years in Springfield as "a study in complexity, caution and calculation. In the minority party for all but his final two years in the Statehouse, he tempered a progressive agenda with a cold dash of realism, often forging consensus with conservative Republicans when other liberals wanted to crusade."

Racial profiling, death penalty reform, recording of criminal interrogations, health care—when victory was elusive, Obama seized progress. He did so by working fluidly with Republicans and Democrats. He sought out his ideological foes. He listened closely to them. As a result, many Republicans in Illinois have warm words for Barack Obama.

Obama's key opponent, U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, unifies only her foes. Her penchant for gaming every issue—recall her clumsy dodging when asked in a Philadelphia debate whether illegal immigrants should be licensed to drive—feeds suspicion of maneuvering that would humble Machiavelli.

As this campaign has progressed, Hillary Clinton in moments of crisis hasn't been an ennobling sight. Her reliance on her husband, the less-than-presidential Bill, to trash-talk Obama reaffirms that the Clintons do whatever it takes to prevail. Depicting Obama's record on Iraq as a "fairy tale" is instructive: Think what you will of the war, but Sen. Clinton was an enabler when that was popular. In Kerryspeak, she was for the war before she was against the war.

The candidates' differences on issues are minor and largely irrelevant: Presidents don't dictate laws, they tussle over legislation with Congress. Much of the "experience" Hillary Clinton touts in that realm instead was proximity to power. Bill's power.

Last week, Hillary Clinton attacked Obama for his association with alleged influence-peddler Tony Rezko. If Obama had dealt with the Rezko issue forthrightly long ago, it might rank in public memory with Clinton's remarkable success in cattle futures.

Instead, as we've said, Obama has been too self-exculpatory. His assertion in network TV interviews last week that nobody had indications Rezko was engaging in wrongdoing strains credulity: Tribune stories linked Rezko to questionable fundraising for Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2004—more than a year before the adjacent home and property purchases by the Obamas and the Rezkos.

One more time, Senator:

You need to divulge all there is to know about that relationship. Until you do, the journalistic scrubbing and opposition research will intensify. You should have recognized Rezko as a political seducer of young talent. But given that you've not been accused of any crime or ethical breach, your Rezko history is not a deal-breaker.

Nor do we know of similar lapses during the 12 years we've been watching Obama.

To the contrary, the professional judgment and personal decency with which he has managed himself and his ambition distinguish Barack Obama. We endorse him convinced that he could lead America in directions that the other Democrats could not.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's Sleeping Giant: Young Voters (2008-01-26 16:10)

Since the campaign started nearly a year ago, the Obama campaign has carefully courted and organized young people to support his candidacy. Indeed, it was a group of young supporters known as Students for Barack Obama that helped orchestrate the drive for Obama to run in the first place.

If these young people do actually awake and turn out on Feb. 5, the Illinois senator could shock everyone with a tsunami victory. If not, then it will be much, much tougher. Of course, there are other important factors like independent voters, cross-over voters, etc., but none quite so difficult to predict as young voters.

According the U.S. census, about 10.46 percent of the Iowa population is between 18 and 24 years old. In comparison, New Hampshire has about 9.13 percent in the same category and Nevada only 8.55 percent.

South Carolina, which just finished voting today, has 9.72 percent in the 18-24 range. We saw today a masterful

example of how getting out the vote should be done.

Tsunami Tuesday states with high percentages of young people include North Dakota (12.86 %), Utah (12.51 %), Alaska (10.70 %), Kansas (10.59 %), New Mexico (10.48 %), California (10.38 %), Minnesota (10.07 %) and New York (10.04 %).

In traditional voter turnout among Feb. 5 states, Minnesota (43 %) and Massachusetts (34 %) are standouts.

Much of Barack's support among young people is found at the nation's colleges and universities. California had the leading number of fall enrollment in 2005 with 2,399,833 at degree-granting institutions followed by New York, among Feb. 5 states, with 1,152,081.

Hillary Clinton's campaign understands Barack's appeal to young people and recently she has highlighted her programs to cut tuition fees and reign in predatory student lenders. Her daughter Chelsea and Hollywood stars like America Ferrera can also be expected to make circuits of college campuses for Hillary.

Obama may have a bit of a lead here though with hundreds of college chapters of Students for Barack Obama created over the last year. It will be up to his supporters though to make sure these chapters are energized to spread the word and get out the youth vote.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama projected winner in South Carolina (2008-01-26 17:05)

NBC and CNN are projecting Barack Obama has won by a good margin. More details later.

Update : Those early numbers were based on just a few precincts. Barack has about 52 percent of the vote with 2 percent of the precincts reporting.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Caroline Kennedy: 'A President Like My Father' (2008-01-26 19:31)

Looks like Barack Obama will have won by 27 or 28 percentage points when the counting is done. A huge victory. There are rumors of some big endorsements tomorrow, possibly Ted Kennedy and even Al Gore according to Lynn Sweet.

In tomorrow's New York Times, Caroline Kennedy will endorse Obama in an op-ed.

Caroline Kennedy: 'A President Like My Father'

by Sam Graham-Felsen,

Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 05:49 PM

Caroline Kennedy endorses Barack Obama for President in the New York Times...

By CAROLINE KENNEDY

OVER the years, I've been deeply moved by the people who've told me they wished they could feel inspired and hopeful about America the way people did when my father was president. This sense is even more profound today. That is why I am supporting a presidential candidate in the Democratic primaries, Barack Obama.

My reasons are patriotic, political and personal, and the three are intertwined. All my life, people have told me that my father changed their lives, that they got involved in public service or politics because he asked them to. And the generation he inspired has passed that spirit on to its children. I meet young people who were born long after John F. Kennedy was president, yet who ask me how to live out his ideals.

Sometimes it takes a while to recognize that someone has a special ability to get us to believe in ourselves, to tie that belief to our highest ideals and imagine that together we can do great things. In those rare moments, when such a person comes along, we need to put aside our plans and reach for what we know is possible.

We have that kind of opportunity with Senator Obama. It isn't that the other candidates are not experienced or knowledgeable. But this year, that may not be enough. We need a change in the leadership of this country — just as we did in 1960.

Most of us would prefer to base our voting decision on policy differences. However, the candidates' goals are similar. They have all laid out detailed plans on everything from strengthening our middle class to investing in early childhood education. So qualities of leadership, character and judgment play a larger role than usual.

Senator Obama has demonstrated these qualities throughout his more than two decades of public service, not just in the United States Senate but in Illinois, where he helped turn around struggling communities, taught constitutional law and was an elected state official for eight years. And Senator Obama is showing the same qualities today. He has built a movement that is changing the face of politics in this country, and he has demonstrated a special gift for inspiring young people — known for a willingness to volunteer, but an aversion to politics — to become engaged in the political process.

I have spent the past five years working in the New York City public schools and have three teenage children of my own. There is a generation coming of age that is hopeful, hard-working, innovative and imaginative. But too many of them are also hopeless, defeated and disengaged. As parents, we have a responsibility to help our children to believe in themselves and in their power to shape their future. Senator Obama is inspiring my children, my parents' grandchildren, with that sense of possibility.

Senator Obama is running a dignified and honest campaign. He has spoken eloquently about the role of faith in his life, and opened a window into his character in two compelling books. And when it comes to judgment, Barack Obama made the right call on the most important issue of our time by opposing the war in Iraq from the beginning.

I want a president who understands that his responsibility is to articulate a vision and encourage others to achieve it; who holds himself, and those around him, to the highest ethical standards; who appeals to the hopes of those who still believe in the American Dream, and those around the world who still believe in the American ideal; and who can lift our spirits, and make us believe again that our country needs every one of us to get involved.

I have never had a president who inspired me the way people tell me that my father inspired them. But for the first time, I believe I have found the man who could be that president — not just for me, but for a new generation of Americans.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's victory speech in South Carolina (2008-01-26 21:14)

Check out Barack Obama's victory speech after the South Carolina Primary.
[EMBED]

To rate up this video and add to your favorites, visit the YouTube site:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iVAPH_EcmQ

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Seattle Times endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-27 07:20)

The Seattle Times endorsed Barack Obama today.



The Times recommends ...

Obama for the Democrats



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After seven years of George Bush's failed presidency, after five years of unnecessary war in Iraq, America is ready to write a new narrative. All candidates favor the now-bromidic slogan: change. Only one candidate truly embraces the yearnings this word represents.

The Seattle Times endorses Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for president. He has the grasp, temperament and skills to right our standing in the world. He has broad insight and specific ideas to assuage our own hardworking citizens' fears of an economy turning sour.

Obama has thoughtful plans to help citizens with everyday problems: middle-class tax breaks; elimination of income tax for seniors earning less than \$50,000; health care for minors.

Critics ask a fair question about Obama's experience. He has been a U. S. senator for three years, Illinois state senator for eight, lawyer, lecturer, community organizer — a résumé some say is not executive enough for a president.

American voters tend to select governors rather than senators for president, President Bush being a re-

cent example. Bush fit the mold — governor of Texas six years — but his résumé proved to be a failed indicator.

Judgment is more important. Bush's decision to invade Iraq was the most-wrongheaded decision of our time.

Voters this time have reason to focus on other qualities, such as the courage to tell people things they might not want to hear. Obama, for example, took his pitch for higher fuel-efficiency standards to the most-challenging audience, Detroit.

And in October 2002, when our country was horribly bruised by Sept. 11, he came out against the war in Iraq: "I don't oppose all wars. ... What I am opposed to is a dumb war. ... What I am opposed to is a rash war."

Such statements might sound unpatriotic — unless, of course, the speaker turns out to be correct. In an Obama administration, American troops have a chance to start coming home.

Americans have not selected a candidate for president directly from the Senate since 1960, when they elected Sen. John Kennedy, who offered similar charisma and hope.

Obama, more than other candidates, is gut-level inspiring. All candidates speak in platitudes that make us feel good. Sometimes their words actually move us.

"We want a politics that reflects our best values," Obama said early in the campaign. "We want a politics that reflects our core decency, a politics that is based on a simple premise that we stand and fall together."

We need that after the divisiveness of Bush-Cheney. Obama would rather talk to world leaders than rattle sabers at them.

That approach is likely to appeal to moderates and independents if they participate in Washington's Feb. 9 caucuses and Feb. 19 primary.

Obama's personal story offers progress in the ongoing struggle to be a more comfortable, racially diverse country. The son of a white mother from Kansas and an absent father from Kenya, he doesn't need to say much about diversity. He moves the issue forward just by waking up in the morning. Obama would be the first African-American president. But in his way of transcending the harshness of typical racial politics, he makes that almost a side point.

Obama has realistic ideas about education: performance pay and universal prekindergarten that is not mandatory; after-school and summer programs.

Obama would mandate health-insurance coverage for children, but not for adults. His approach to expanding coverage and stemming escalating costs is pragmatic enough to gain legislative traction.

Obama speaks eloquently about media issues. His positions encourage a public worried about a consolidated media. He supports network neutrality and laments media consolidation. He co-sponsored a bill to stop recent changes to the cross-ownership rule adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. Obama says he would appoint FCC commissioners who will work in the public's interest and against media concentration.

Obama has the smarts, the plans and, yes, the charisma to capably lead and transform a nation that aches for a new direction.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Stockton Record recommends Barack Obama (2008-01-27 07:30)

The Stockton Record , widely read in California's San Joaquin county, has recommended Barack Obama today.

Barack Obama: The possibilities of setting a new course

Because the Feb. 5 primary election gives California voters a real chance to impact the presidential nominating process, The Record is breaking precedent by offering its recommendations.

January 27, 2008 6:00 AM

Barack Obama is turning "The Audacity of Hope" into a working title.

The 46-year-old first-term U.S. senator from Illinois is audaciously challenging the Democratic Party establishment in his historic bid to become the country's first black presidential nominee.

With poise and assurance, he's reasserted a visionary agenda of hope, inspiration, dedication and commitment so eloquently expressed in his 2006 book. He's aiming his policies and programs in a new direction, expressing a determination to create unity, inclusiveness and bipartisanship that would make him a formidable contender in the Nov. 4 election.

The schedule for The Record's editorial endorsements for the Feb. 5 primary election:

» **Today:** John McCain, Republican, and Barack Obama, Democrat, for president

» **Monday:** State Propositions 91, 92 and 93

» **Tuesday:** State Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97

» **Wednesday:** Measure Q, the Stockton Unified School District's construction bond

Obama already has demonstrated the strength, resiliency and perseverance that leadership requires during his campaign against New York Sen. Hillary Clinton. She's been buttressed by the ongoing popularity of her husband, former President Clinton, and the well-calibrated Democratic machinery he helped construct.

Obama, an interloper who seems to have affronted the Clintons' sense of entitlement, has energized and mobilized young people, independents and first-time voters - expanding and diversifying the party's base while threatening the established protocols.

He's been bold and straightforward about his policies and increasingly defiant when challenged on his basic beliefs. He's tried to be tactful and thoughtful regarding race, attempting to transcend it while competing respectfully - despite some recent bickering - against the first woman to have a viable chance to be president.

On most major issues, Obama differs only marginally from Clinton or former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards.

Unlike them, however, he doesn't need to renunciate or equivocate about the war in Iraq. He opposed the war and didn't have to vote to authorize its funding, as did Clinton and Edwards. He was a state legislator at the time.

Like Clinton, he supports phased withdrawals of U.S. troops - a stark contrast and clear choice in a campaign against a Republican opponent.

Though he lacks foreign policy experience, he's said he'll assemble a team of seasoned specialists to assist him. Decades of experience couldn't prevent the country and its undersized military from being bogged down in the bloody, costly conflict in Iraq since 2003.

Obama, whose father was born in Kenya, supports comprehensive immigration reform and an all-inclusive health care plan. He fits the Democratic demographic when it comes to values issues. He'll have to be forceful as the U.S. economy deteriorates.

It'll require more than audacity and hope to sustain Obama during what could become a personal and polarizing campaign. He'll need to keep his cool, stick to his core beliefs and refrain from demonizing the opposition.

If he does that and stays committed to unifying a badly divided nation, he could end 20 years of Bush-Clinton dominance of the presidency and set a new course for which the majority of Americans have been hoping.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Times of Trenton (NJ) backs Barack Obama (2008-01-27 07:43)

The Times of Trenton in New Jersey endorsed Barack Obama today.

The Times

Dem primary: Obama

Sunday, January 27, 2008

Now that New Jersey has a real voice in the primary process, we'd like to become part of the chorus. We're endorsing candi dates for the Garden State's Feb. 5 contest – one of 23 across the country that day that will go a long way toward determining the presidential nominees.

We'd trust the keys to the White House to any one of the three leading Democratic candidates. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards have plans, passion and a grounding in government that would serve the country well. Their engagement, their energy would represent a huge change from the lackluster leadership of the past seven years.

That said, we're backing Sen. Obama for several reasons, not the least of which is that he has the ability to change the image of the United States overnight. And he understands the importance of that power, the first step toward restoring our country as a beacon of liberty and justice.

Sen. Obama has advanced an agenda of sound economic proposals. And his health-care approach, with buy-in plans, would pave the way toward the eventual goal of an all-inclusive health-care system.

He's serious about the development of alternative fuels and is not beholden to the interests of the big oil companies.

He has displayed solid judgment throughout his career. When, as a state senator, he warned against going to war in Iraq, he eloquently anticipated the worst that has come to pass. Having never voted for

the war, he's in a better position than his rivals to begin to undo that unholy mess with a timetable for the withdrawal of troops.

His candidacy also is a clear signal that the United States has moved beyond whatever remnants of racism still cling to this country's conscience. Pockets of prejudice still may remain here and there, but they will no longer be countenanced.

Most important, Sen. Obama represents a fresh start and a departure from two decades of the Bush-Clinton-Bush monopoly on government – and all the attendant scandals, favors, battles, special interests, failures and foibles of that time.

He's tapped a spring of hope in the people of this country. He's inspired us to believe that the little guy will not be lost in the business of government, but participate in it and benefit from it.

John Edwards also has sounded that theme, but he seems to have overplayed the populist card.

Hillary Clinton is more than qualified to run the country. She's smart, experienced, eminently able – and she's promised to roll up her sleeves and begin work on her first day in office. Our government, though is so huge, so entrenched, such a mighty force of inertia, it may be impossible, despite her best efforts, for her to actually push it in a different direction.

That's the advantage of Obama and the ignition of optimism he's brought about. Appealing to our best and brightest instincts, he's made us believe a better future is possible.

He's intent on pushing the massive behemoth of government toward change, and he has the ability to inspire Congress and the people to unite and join the effort.

Obama is convinced that our country is capable of better. And he has convinced us.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

WantaDemocratThisTime (2008-01-27 11:18:00)

That's it? Obama inspires, and its going to change something in Washington? Gads. I guess I will go back to my own brand of hope, based on reality. If the press manages to force the last electable Democrat out of the race, they will turn on Barack and Hillary like hyenas on a zebra. Maybe we can have a Democrat in the White House in 2012

Ted Kennedy to endorse Barack Obama? (2008-01-27 08:09)

Time magazine's Mark Halperin suggests another endorsement from "Camelot," this time from Sen. Ted Kennedy may be on the way. Yesterday, Lynn Sweet hinted at the same thing.

ChrisR of mydd.com sees this is as a big gain for the following reasons:

Five reasons:

- 1) Symbolism: One can knock the Kennedys as the past. There's some powerful symbolism there among a great deal of Democratic voters – particular older ones.
- 2) Credibility: He's still one of the leading D's out there in the Senate. He's what many thought HRC was going to be in the Senate – a major power broker in the D party,

- 3) A nudge to superdelegates: This provides momentum and provides a signal to others in Congress: hop on board.
- 4) Media: This is two days of free media – and provides an incredibly strong media narrative for one if not two of the nine days remaining,
- 5) Massachussets: It matters. With Patrick, Kerry and Kennedy, that puts Obama in much stronger shape in MA. The polls that took place before this endorsement and before SC? Utterly meaningless.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



San Francisco Chronicle backs Barack Obama (2008-01-27 08:15)

Another big California endorsement: the San Francisco Chronicle recommends Barack Obama for the Democratic primary.



Reprieve and renewal

Sunday, January 27, 2008

The American political system needs a period of reprieve and renewal.

It needs a reprieve from a White House that draws power from fear, sneers at any science that gets in the way of corporate or theocratic missions and stubbornly adheres to policies that leave the nation sinking in debt and mired in war. It craves a reprieve from the politics of bloodsport that prize clever calculation over courage, winning over principle, party label over national interest.

The renewal must come from a president who can lead by inspiration, who can set partisanship aside to define and achieve common goals, who can persuade a new generation of Americans that there is something noble and something important about public service.

There is no doubt about the Democrat with the vision and skills to bring that period of reprieve and renewal. It is Sen. Barack Obama.

As is often the case in a heavily contested primary, the relatively modest policy differences among the candidates have become magnified and inflamed beyond all due perspective. For example, Obama, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. John Edwards have pledged to expand health coverage, albeit with somewhat different approaches. Obama's is certainly the most cautious, though perhaps the most realistic, considering that any overhaul of the health care system would require buy-in from at least some Republicans and myriad business interests that would be affected by such landmark federal regulation.

All three have vowed to phase out the U.S. military presence in Iraq. Obama, however, stands alone in his opposition to the invasion at the outset. Clinton and Edwards each voted to give President Bush the authorization to use military force against Saddam Hussein. Edwards acknowledges his mistake, Clinton parses the meaning of the resolution. It was Obama's instincts that proved sound.

Clinton, who arrived in the U.S. Senate four years before Obama, has tried to make experience the issue. As senator, she has proved skillful at representing diverse New York interests and working with Republicans. But if she wants to highlight her White House experience as a defining difference, then it's only fair

to point out that two of the projects she was most deeply involved with produced a debacle (health care) and scandals (fund raising). Especially in recent days, her campaign has shown the sharp elbows that evoke the ugly underside of the Clinton years, and the (Karl Rove inspired) Bush years that succeeded them: the reflex to scorch the Earth, to do what is necessary to vanquish political adversaries ... all is justified if you are left standing at the end.

America deserves better than these cycles of vengeance and retribution. Its possibilities are too great, its challenges too daunting, for partisan pettiness.

In a Jan. 17 meeting with our editorial board, Obama demonstrated an impressive command of a wide variety of issues. He listened intently to the questions. He responded with substance. He did not control a format without a stopwatch on answers or constraints on follow-up questions, yet he flourished in it.

He radiated the sense of possibility that has attracted the votes of independents and tapped into the idealism of young people during this campaign. He exuded the aura of a 46-year-old leader who could once again persuade the best and the brightest to forestall or pause their grand professional goals to serve in his administration.

Of all the candidates who talk about change, Barack Obama has made the case most forcefully and most convincingly. He gets our endorsement for the Democratic nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Arizona Republic backs Barack Obama (2008-01-27 08:30)

The Arizona Republic , the state's largest newspaper is endorsing Barack Obama.



Obama can unite nation

Jan. 27, 2008 12:00 AM

This is historic. Savor it.

For the first time, a Black man and a woman are within striking distance of the U.S. presidency. That is a remarkable statement about how far this country has come toward the goal of equality. It is shining testimony to the world that the United States continues to move toward the "more perfect Union" our Constitution envisions.

These two candidates for president do not want their efforts to win the Democratic presidential primary to be defined by their gender or race. That, too, is significant, and it signals a level of national maturity that would have been unthinkable not so very long ago. So we will consider Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on criteria other than gender and race.

First, we need to acknowledge that there will be other candidates on Arizona's Feb. 5 Democratic primary ballot. The most significant of these is John Edwards. As the son of a mill worker, he also exemplifies the promise of America. But his populist appeal relies too much on demonizing big business, and his death knell for the middle class is premature. He doesn't measure up.

This contest is between Obama and Clinton.

Their Senate voting records and political philosophy about the role of government are not appreciably different. Both are intelligent and competent individuals who can be trusted to surround themselves with

top-notch advisers.

What sets these two apart is the likelihood they can deliver on the promise of change.

We believe Barack Obama has the best chance of moving Washington and the nation beyond the poisonous partisanship of recent decades. He appeals to independent voters and Republicans, in addition to members of his own party. His promise to unite is convincing.

Fierce political divisions have made it impossible to enact needed reforms in such areas as immigration policy, Social Security and health care. In addition to making domestic challenges untouchable, the partisan antagonism has made it more difficult to deal with international issues - from trade to terrorism.

The natural tension between branches of government and political parties is built into the system because it provides brakes and checks. Yet deeply entrenched opposition based on personalities is corrosive. Sadly, that type of active hostility has become a hallmark of Washington.

In addition, many Americans are cynical and frustrated because they perceive that special interests exert undue influence on government decision-making.

Hillary Clinton, though highly experienced, is very much a part of the current gridlocked system. She is a polarizing figure who would face instant opposition from those who continue to have a visceral reaction to Bill Clinton's administration.

To make matters worse, the combative stance the former president has taken during the campaign is more than just unseemly. It reaches beyond the primary, and will be answered growl for growl by Republicans in Congress if Hillary Clinton becomes president. Partisan politics will continue as usual.

Hillary Clinton is tough, and she might demonstrate the skills to overcome the opposition. But that will take time and energy, and prevent her from hitting the ground running, as she promises to do. In all likelihood, the lingering ill will from her husband's administration would cripple Clinton's presidency.

Obama is free from that baggage. He promises to move politics beyond the past two decades of screaming heads to something more productive. His campaign's tone is one of cooperation and bipartisanship. Obama's call for Americans to believe in their power to change things is Kennedy-esque in its idealism. But it is also solidly rooted in an understanding of how badly the nation needs to remember its true strengths. He wants to provide tools, such as an accessible Internet database of lobbyist activities, to bring more openness to government and encourage public participation.

Obama represents a fresh, optimistic approach. His youthful voice calls for fundamental changes and a return to "an America that believes again." His oratory soars. While talk alone isn't enough, it has been a very long time since Americans had a leader who appealed to their better nature.

Democrats would do well to let Barack Obama carry their hopes into November.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



WantaDemocratThisTime (2008-01-27 11:11:00)

This prose is all nice and pretty, except there are no republicans who would vote for Obama. How about we end the pep rally, and start the process of ELECTING a head of state? It is still done by educated people casting votes.

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D - LA) endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-27 09:43)

U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra of Los Angeles, the highest ranking Latino in the House of Representatives and a close ally of Nancy Pelosi, announced his endorsement of Sen. Barack Obama today.

Another Pelosi friend, Rep. George Miller, has already endorsed Obama and some see these endorsements as an unofficial nod from the Speaker herself.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Sen. Ted Kennedy to endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-27 10:39)

The Boston Globe, citing "Kennedy confidantes" reports that Sen. Ted Kennedy will endorse Sen. Barack Obama in person along with his niece Caroline tomorrow morning at American University in Washington DC. The Globe also reports that Ted Kennedy plans to campaign for Obama especially among Hispanics and labor union members. The support of the Massachusetts elder statesman could help the Illinois senator gain more superdelegate endorsements.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Ground forces, surrogates will play key Super Tuesday role (2008-01-27 12:21)

No candidate will be able to effectively stump through 22 states leading up to Super Tuesday. Instead they will depend on an army of volunteers and surrogates to fan out and represent them in these locations.

Elected officials and celebrities who support the candidate can stump in key areas allowing the candidate to pick and choose which locations to target. Organizations like labor unions and political action committees will also play a role. Celebrity surrogates vary in their effectiveness depending on the venue. In California, where two former Hollywood stars have governed the state, people often welcome the fanfare. Someone like Oprah Winfrey could have a big impact on the campaign trail in the Golden State.

Regular supporters also act as surrogates representing the candidate with their family, friends and associates. They may also volunteer to "cold call" working door-to-door, on the phones or at visibility/tabling events.

Barack Obama is widely seen as having the most extensive ground operation across the Tsunami Tuesday states. Here in California the operation is unprecedented. There are at least 13 official field offices most now working feverishly seven days a week. Numerous events are scheduled across the state to make contact with voters on behalf of the candidate.

The internet will also play an important role as supporters use email, texting and the like to cajole their contact list. Some may even work the social networks like Facebook and MySpace seeking new friends in Feb. 5 states across cyberspace.

Make calls to February 5th voters

MAKE THE CALL



Organize your community

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Action Center
Obama Mobile

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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More Endorsement News (2008-01-27 14:55)

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will endorse Sen. Barack Obama on Tuesday according to Marc Ambinder, giving unnamed Democratic sources. That would be very big, and Sebelius is often touted as a VP candidate.

Over at the Huffington Post, progressive activist and former California State Senator Tom Hayden promises to support Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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New Spanish Language Phone Banking Tool (2008-01-27 20:58)

From barackobama.com/blog:

New Spanish Language Phone Banking Tool

By Zach Edwards - Jan 27th, 2008 at 4:57 pm EST



Yes We Can!;Sí se Puede!

We're extremely excited to announce that we have launched our new online phone banking center for Spanish speakers. Here are two letters that were sent out to our grassroots supporters to explain the new tool and to help everyone get started making these important calls.

Dear Friends,

The Barack Obama campaign has introduced a new online tool that will allow our Spanish speaking supporters around the country to call undecided Spanish-speaking voters in the critical February 5th states. All you have to do is log on to our website to begin making calls to potential supporters.

Log on using this link.

And click "Click here to get started"


We also have a step-by-step guide to help you get started.  Download it here.

Help us build our grassroots movement that will ensure there is affordable healthcare for all, bring common sense to our immigration policies, and send a message of hope, unity, and opportunity to everyone in this great nation. The February 5th contests are just over a week away. We need your help today. Yes We Can!

Queridos amigos,

La campaña de Barack Obama esta introduciendo una nueva aplicación que latinos que son partidarios de Obama podrán utilizar para llamar a otros latinos que no han decidido por quien votar en las elecciones primarias del 5 de febrero.

Favor visite:

Y haga clic donde dice "Click here to get started"  Download it here.

Incluido esta un guía que explica paso por paso como empezar.

Ayúdenos construir el movimiento popular para asegurar que toda la gente tenga acceso a los servicios sanitarios, a traer sabiduría a nuestras leyes inmigratorias, y a mandar un mensaje de esperanza, unidad, y oportunidad a todas las personas que viven en este gran país. Falta menos de una semana hasta las elecciones primarias del 5 de febrero. Necesitamos su ayuda este mismo día. ¡Sí se puede!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Toni Morrison endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-28 10:11)

Toni Morrison, Nobel and Pulitzer prize winning author, endorsed Barack Obama today. Here is a copy of her endorsement letter.

Dear Senator Obama,

This letter represents a first for me—a public endorsement of a Presidential candidate. I feel driven to let you know why I am writing it. One reason is it may help gather other supporters; another is that this is one of those singular moments that nations ignore at their peril. I will not rehearse the multiple crises facing us, but of one thing I am certain: this opportunity for a national evolution (even revolution) will not come again soon, and I am convinced you are the person to capture it.

May I describe to you my thoughts?

I have admired Senator Clinton for years. Her knowledge always seemed to me exhaustive; her negotiation of politics expert. However I am more compelled by the quality of mind (as far as I can measure it) of a candidate. I cared little for her gender as a source of my admiration, and the little I did care was based on the fact that no liberal woman has ever ruled in America. Only conservative or "new-centrist" ones are allowed into that realm. Nor do I care very much for your race[s]. I would not support you if that was all you had to offer or because it might make me "proud."

In thinking carefully about the strengths of the candidates, I stunned myself when I came to the following conclusion: that in addition to keen intelligence, integrity and a rare authenticity, you exhibit something that has nothing to do with age, experience, race or gender and something I don't see in other candidates. That something is a creative imagination which coupled with brilliance equals wisdom. It is too bad if we associate it only with gray hair and old age. Or if we call searing vision naivete. Or if we believe cunning is insight. Or if we settle for finessing cures tailored for each ravaged tree in the forest while ignoring the poisonous landscape that feeds and surrounds it. Wisdom is a gift; you can't train for it, inherit it, learn it in a class, or earn it in the workplace—that access can foster the acquisition of knowledge, but not wisdom.

When, I wondered, was the last time this country was guided by such a leader? Someone whose moral center was un-embargoed? Someone with courage instead of mere ambition? Someone who truly thinks

of his country's citizens as "we," not "they"? Someone who understands what it will take to help America realize the virtues it fancies about itself, what it desperately needs to become in the world?

Our future is ripe, outrageously rich in its possibilities. Yet unleashing the glory of that future will require a difficult labor, and some may be so frightened of its birth they will refuse to abandon their nostalgia for the womb.

There have been a few prescient leaders in our past, but you are the man for this time.

Good luck to you and to us.

Toni Morrison

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Mike Capuano endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-28 10:54)

U.S. Rep Mike Capuano of Massachusetts endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today.

I want somebody who's both a dreamer and a doer. Barack will shake Washington up," Capuano said.

"He has more likelihood of bringing people together," Capuano said. The bottom line is you take a look at them like everybody does, and figure out who's best for the party, and who can win."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Is Camelot Relevant? (2008-01-28 15:12)

There are some commentators who are questioning whether the endorsements of Sen. Ted Kennedy Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Caroline Kennedy, daughter of JFK will have any impact on the race.

One way to look at it: For every current and past Democrat in elected office who owes something to Bill Clinton, there are probably at least two people who owe something to the Kennedy family and that includes Hill and Bill.

Caroline Kennedy speaks to the crowd at American University

[EMBED]

Remarks by Sen. Ted Kennedy

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



California State Legislators Endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-28 19:35)

California state legislators including Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, the highest-ranking woman in the legislature, and Karen Bass, the Assembly Majority Leader, gathered at the State Capitol to express their support for Barack Obama.

I took some video of the event and uploaded it to YouTube. The press release that includes all the endorsing legislatures is appended below.

[EMBED]



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2008

CONTACT: Debbie Mesloh, CA Director of Communications, 323-854-8609 , dmesloh@barackobama.com

State Legislators Say Obama is Candidate To Bring Change to Washington D.C .

Highest Ranking Women State Legislators and Legislative Colleagues Speak in Support of Senator Obama

SACRAMENTO

– At a press conference on the North Steps of the State Capitol today, state legislators from across California met to discuss their support for Senator Obama and explain why they believe he will be the president to bring change we can believe in to Washington D.C . The highest ranking female state legislators, California Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero and Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass were joined by their colleagues to urge California Democrats and ‘Decline to State’ voters to support Senator Obama in the February 5 primary.

“ Barack Obama is the one candidate who can bring Californians and Americans together around an agenda that can help struggling families pay the bills, keep their homes, afford health care, and find good jobs with decent wages,” said Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero. “He is more interested in solving problems than scoring political points, because that’s the only way we’re going to change the divisive, negative politics in Washington and actually make progress on the issues that matter to the American people like the economy and health care.”

“Poll after poll shows that Senator Barack Obama is the most electable Democrat because he can unite Democrats, Independents, and Republicans like no other candidate in this race,” said Assemblyman Ted Lieu. “He’ll help Democrats get elected all across the country - especially in conservative areas where Democrats have not fared well for decades. At this defining moment in our history, we need to nominate a candidate who can build the majority necessary to become President.”

State legislators who have officially endorsed Senator Obama include:

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero (SD24)

Senator Elaine Alquist (SD13)

Senator Gilbert Cedillo (SD22)

Senator Dean Florez (SD16)

Senator Alan Lowenthal (SD27)

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (SD26), chair of the Black Caucus

Senator Jack Scott (SD21)

Senator Darrell Steinberg (SD6)

Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass (AD47)

Assemblymember Joe Coto (AD23), chair of the Latino Caucus

Assemblymember Mike Davis (AD48)

Assemblymember Jared Huffman (AD6)

Assemblymember Ted Lieu (AD53), chair of Asian Pacific Islander Caucus.

Assemblymember Gene Mullin (AD19)

Assemblymember Nicole Parra (AD30)

Assemblymember Curren Price (AD51)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-02-09 01:23:00)

The Skinny on Hillary

Dear brothers in arms,

We put a piece of truth about the Clintons on www.matrix-evolutions.com that would make a difference in the race if people could hear it. It begins:

We are scientists who derive our politics from an evolutionary perspective, not from conservative ideology. Our analysis concludes that our so-called war on terror is slowly but surely taking us to World War III. Note Putin's 2/8/08 call for a renewed arms race to counter America's efforts to conquer the world. For that reason we support Barack Obama as the only real anti-war candidate, the only one who can keep such a nuclear tipped train wreck from happening.

As to Hillary Clinton, recall during their populist administration that President Bill and missus, while promising health care they never delivered, did deliver more police and prisons, and took our jail population to the highest per-capita level in the world. This statistic, ahem, is historically associated with hardened police states like Stalinist Russia and apartheid South Africa. We all know that spitting on the street nowadays will get you six months in jail. But of course we're not a police state, because if we were, you'd have heard about it on the evening news.

The Clintons as president also made their upper class handlers happy by ending LBJ's war on poverty, which brought about the vast population of homeless beggars we see on the streets of America today. Pearls for the wealthy, evictions for the rest of us. Don't laugh. It could happen to you. Wait until the recession, caused primarily by our trillion dollar War in Iraq, gets into high gear. Goodbye nest egg when the market totally collapses. Goodbye home thanks to the Shylock mortgage brokers in bed with the conservatives. Hello suffering on the street with your kids in a foster home.

Actually Hillary does have a few things she can be very proud of. She is a most talented actress, a profoundly adept social climber and a top paid shill of the upper class. She is our American Evita and almost everybody loves her style. But whatever her talents and personal accomplishments, she is not going to go against the wishes of the ruling clique who created her and Bill and stop their war.

Some think that Hillary would never lie to us. But Bill also insisted he would never lie to us and is so amazingly good an actor, almost as good as his wife, that we yet believe him even after the tape recording caught him with the cigar between Monica's legs. What character is there in a first family when the head of the most powerful nation on earth is sticking a penile object, not even his own, up some college kid's vagina? Does anybody think Hillary felt personally bad about the Monica thing other than not having her usual go with one of Bill's girls? Watch the conservatives bring forth one of Hillary's lovers soon to clarify her tastes in this area. Indeed, one would not be surprised if the less than confident, slightly retarded, persona Chelsea Clinton was condemned to live her life with derives from her pervert parents abusing her when she was four years old. Certainly there is as much truth in this conjecture as in the equally outrageous conjecture that the Clintons are not good people even though they go to church every Sunday. If evil is badness that comes from an unexpected source, the Clintons are evil enough to have shit stuffed in their mouths and be set on fire. That's an opinion of their character, not a threat on their lives, for all you hate speech monitors out there.

Unfortunately, though, short of a revolution, we may be stuck with another Clinton figurehead presidency, for our evolutionary analysis shows clearly that while biological evolution is not of intelligent design, our presidential elections are. They are intelligently designed by the conservative ruling clique that has hold of our media and our courts, including our Supreme Court, which designed the last election outcome. Which all of you meekly accepted because the majority of Americans are basically passive cowards who lack the courage it takes to stand up to tyranny. The upper classes would never allow Obama to become president and stop the war. They would assassinate him first, literally have him shot like Martin Luther King, if the media they control can't derail his candidacy in a more subtle way. We reach these outrageous conclusions, not from bipolar disease, but from a firm scientific analysis whose details follow after we have introduced ourselves.

Yours in the struggle,

Dr. and Mrs. Peter V. Calabria

Barack Obama responds to State of the Union Address (2008-01-28 20:35)

[EMBED]

Tonight, for the seventh long year, the American people heard a State of the Union that didn't reflect the America we see, and didn't address the challenges we face. But what it did do was give us an urgent reminder of why it's so important to turn the page on the failed politics and policies of the past, and change the status quo in Washington so we can finally start making progress for ordinary Americans.

Tonight's State of the Union was full of the same empty rhetoric the American people have come to expect from this President. We heard President Bush say he'd do something to cut down on special interest earmarks, but we know these earmarks have skyrocketed under his administration.

We heard the President say he wants to make tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans permanent, when we know that at a time of war and economic hardship, the last thing we need is a permanent tax cut for Americans who don't need them and weren't even asking for them. What we need is a middle class tax cut, and that's exactly what I will provide as President.

We heard the President say he has a stimulus plan to boost our economy, but we know his plan leaves out seniors and fails to expand unemployment insurance, and we know it was George Bush's Washington that let the banks and financial institutions run amok, and take our economy down this dangerous road. What we need to do now is put more money in the pockets of workers and seniors, and expand unemployment insurance for more people and more time. And I have a plan that to do just that.

And finally, tonight we heard President Bush say that the surge in Iraq is working, when we know that's just not true. Yes, our valiant soldiers have helped reduce the violence. Five soldiers gave their lives today in this cause, and we mourn their loss and pray for their families.

But let there be no doubt - the Iraqi government has failed to seize the moment to reach the compromises necessary for an enduring peace. That was what we were told the surge was all about. So the only way we're finally going to pressure the Iraqis to reconcile and take responsibility for their future is to immediately begin the responsible withdrawal of our combat brigades so that we can bring all of our combat troops home.

But another reason we need to begin this withdrawal immediately is because this war has not made us safer. I opposed this war from the start in part because I was concerned that it would take our eye off al Qaeda and distract us from finishing the job in Afghanistan. Sadly, that's what happened. It's time to heed our military commanders by increasing our commitment to Afghanistan, and it's time to protect the American people by taking the fight to al Qaeda.

Tonight was President Bush's last State of the Union, and I do not believe history will judge his administration kindly. But I also believe the failures of the last seven years stem not just from any single policy, but from a broken politics in Washington. A politics that says it's ok to demonize your political opponents when we should be coming together to solve problems. A politics that puts Wall Street ahead of Main Street, ignoring the reality that our fates are intertwined; a politics that accepts lobbyists as part of the system in Washington, instead of recognizing how much they're a part of the problem. And a politics of fear and ideology instead of hope and common sense.

I believe a new kind of politics is possible, and I believe it is necessary. Because the American people can't afford another four years without health care, decent wages, or an end to this war. The woman who's going to college and working the night shift to pay her sister's medical bills can't afford to wait. The Maytag workers who are now competing with their teenagers for \$7 an hour jobs at Wall Mart can't afford to wait. And the woman who told me she hasn't been able to breathe since her nephew left for Iraq can't afford to wait.

Each year, as we watch the State of the Union, we see half the chamber rise to applaud the President and half the chamber stay in their seats. We see half the country tune in to watch, but know that much of the country has stopped even listening. Imagine if next year was different. Imagine if next year, the entire nation had a president they could believe in. A president who rallied all Americans around a common purpose. That's the kind of President we need in this country. And with your help in the coming days and weeks, that's the kind of President I will be.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Ted Kennedy: Why I'm Endorsing Barack Obama (2008-01-28 21:14)

From barackobama.com:

Why I'm Endorsing Barack Obama

by Senator Ted Kennedy

Monday, January 28, 2008 at 03:07 PM

Cross posted at the Huffington Post



Earlier today I endorsed Barack Obama for president, and I couldn't be

more excited for the Democratic Party, the nation – and the world.

Barack inspires me – it's that simple. In the words of President Kennedy:

"The world is changing. The old ways will not do... It is time for a new generation of leadership."

In Barack, I see that next generation of American leadership: a figure who can transcend the divisions in this country that my family and I have fought so hard to tear down.

We were all moved four years ago as Barack told us a profound truth: We are not red states and blue states, but one United States. Since then, he has matched that rhetoric with action, traveling the country to inspire record turnouts of men and women of all ages, races, parties and faiths. Barack has forged consensus in the Senate on contentious issues such as immigration and pushed through necessary reforms like the most far-reaching ethics reform in its history.

But I'm not only supporting Barack because of what he has done. What counts in our leadership is not the length of years in Washington, but the reach of our vision, the strength of our beliefs, and that rare quality of mind and spirit that can call forth the best in our country and our people.

That's why I'm most excited about the promise of President Obama:

As president, Barack Obama will break the Washington gridlock to finally make health care what it should be in America.

He will turn the page on the old politics of misrepresentation and distortion and bridge the divisions of race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation that plague our country.

He will end a war in Iraq that he has always stood against, that has cost us the lives of thousands of our sons and daughters, and that America never should have fought.

He will close the door on the old economics that has written off the poor and left the middle class poorer and less secure.

He will make the United States the great leader and not the great roadblock in the fateful fight against global warming.

When Barack Obama raises his hand on Inauguration Day a new generation of American leadership will take charge and restore the hope, peace and prosperity the country so desperately needs.

Looking out from the stage today, I realized just how powerful his campaign has become. It's a movement for change – and one that I'm proud to be a part of.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Make calls to February 5th voters

MAKE THE CALL



Organize your community

GET INVOLVED
IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Action Center
Obama Mobile

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X X X

X X X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Two New Ads on the Air (2008-01-28 23:40)

[EMBED] Check ou the two new television ads now airing in Tsunami Tuesday states.
[EMBED]

Obama Campaign Stops

Jan 29 Community Event with Barack Obama

in El Dorado, KS

Jan 29 Stand for Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Kansas City, MO

Jan 30 Community Event with Barack Obama

in Denver, CO

Jan 30 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Phoenix, AZ

Make calls to February 5th voters

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Organize your community



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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TechCrunch endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-29 07:17)

TechCrunch, the popular internet-focused weblog, announced its endorsement of Barack Obama today.

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Senator Barack Obama - Democrat

✕ Senator Obama has put more time and effort into defining his technology policies than any other candidate. In November he released a detailed position paper on technology issues, and we had a one-on-one interview with him two weeks later.

He is staunchly in favor of net neutrality, and has promised to make it a priority to reinstate it in his first year in office. He has proposed intelligent programs for increasing technology education and access to children. He doesn't believe the FCC went far enough in their proposed rules for opening up the 700MHz spectrum auctions. He wants to see increases in the number of H1-B visas given out each year. He strongly supports research into renewable energy sources and he has a realistic, market based approach to capping carbon emissions.

More importantly, though, Senator Obama talks about the future with a sense of optimism that the other candidates seem to lack. America has done great things in the past, and we can do great things in the future, so long as our leaders support our home-grown and immigrant entrepreneurs, or at least get out of the way. Jobs will be lost in some sectors, but growth in technology can drive our economy ever forward. Senator Obama seems to understand that, and has spent a great deal of time addressing technology issues and talking to Silicon Valley leaders. Some of the other Democratic candidates have staked out similar positions as Senator Obama on tech issues - but I get the sense that they are playing "me too" rather than showing real leadership and thoughtfulness on the issues.

Senator Obama also continues to surge when it comes to using the Internet to amplify his voice. I talked about his online surge earlier this month. Senator Obama is the candidate of optimism and leadership, and he will be getting my personal vote.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Day backs Barack Obama (2008-01-29 07:37)

The Day, an Eastern Connecticut daily newspaper, recommended Barack Obama as nominee today.

X

Obama In Democratic Race Sen. Obama's desire for a change in the political discourse is inspiring

By The Day Published on 1/29/2008

For Democratic voters the race for the party nomination for president has come down to two candidates — Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. The election of either would be historic, presenting the nation with either the first woman or first African-American president.

Former Sen. John Edwards remains active in the race, but his optimistic message that impressed Democrats in 2004 has morphed into an angry rant that blames corporate America for all our nation's ills and invites class warfare. His call for simply leaving Iraq is reckless. Voters in early primary states have not found his message credible or attractive, and neither have we.

On the significant issues, the policy differences between Sen. Clinton and Sen. Obama are minor. Both support universal health care, though Sen. Obama's plan does not include a personal insurance mandate. Both want to aim tax relief programs and college-tuition assistance efforts at the middle class.

They have called for a gradual withdrawal from Iraq. If elected, both pledge a global diplomatic initiative aimed at restoring the United States' credibility. They favor government investment in emerging technologies to generate power cleaner and more efficiently. Both call for reforms to the No Child Left Behind Act education program.

The choice, then, comes down to leadership ability.

Sen. Clinton is the more experienced candidate. In terms of policy involvement, she was the most influential first lady in the nation's history during the presidency of her husband, Bill Clinton. She has focused on public policy her entire adult life and displays an impressive understanding of the issues. She has proved a popular senator in New York. And she has been tested under fire.

But there is a win-at-all-cost mentality to the pursuit of power by both Clintons that is disturbing.

In the primary race so far, the Clinton campaign has unleashed attacks on Sen. Obama that intentionally

distorted the truth. Mr. Clinton dismissed Sen. Obama's claim that he consistently opposed the Iraq invasion as a "fairy tale," when in fact it is true. And when Sen. Obama suggested that for a time in the 1980s Republicans were the party putting forth more new ideas, the Clinton campaign twisted the comment in radio ads suggesting Sen. Obama endorsed those Republican ideals. Sen. Clinton knows that is not true. This Clintonian trait of using all means necessary to gain power generates great animosity and it clearly suggests what a second Clinton presidency would look like — continued political conflict.

Sen. Obama, in stark contrast, has said he would search for unity in his presidency, seeking the counsel of independents and even Republicans. He has responded when unfairly attacked, but we see no evidence that he has tried to distort the records of his foes in the primary. Sen. Obama is blessed with immense oratory skill, but he has not used it to demean political foes — Democrats or Republicans.

For too long, our national political debate has been focused on discrediting the opposition and seeking political leverage, rather than on pursuing collective solutions to the serious challenges the U.S. faces. Some may see Sen. Obama's desire for a change in the political discourse as naïve. We view it as inspiring.

As only a first-term senator, concerns about the Illinois senator's lack of experience are legitimate, but his willingness to pick the best advisers, even reaching over political lines, suggests he will put the right people in place to provide the counsel needed to make critical decisions.

Finally, no one offers a better chance to mend America's damaged reputation around the world. His message of unity — delivered by a man of color with roots in Africa and years spent growing up overseas — could be transformative.

The Day urges Democratic voters to select Sen. Barack Obama in the Feb. 5 primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



elsylee (2008-02-05 13:57:00)

Guys make sure you check out the article "The Intoxication of Inspiration" on the blogzine SAVAGE POLITICS (not related to Mike Savage) at www.savagelitics.com. It is awesome.....everyone should read it before voting.

Kathleen Sebelius to Endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-29 09:37)

The Associated Press is reporting that Kansas Gov. Katherine Sebelius will endorse Sen. Barack Obama today. This likely could happen during an Obama rally in El Dorado, Kansas. Barack's parents grew up in Kansas.

El Dorado, KS

OBAMA DELIVERS SPEECH ON RECLAIMING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Butler Community College Gymnasium

901 S Haverhill Rd

El Dorado, KS Doors Open: 11:45 am

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rep. Raul Grijalva endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-29 11:24)

Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva is switching his endorsement from John Edwards to Barack Obama.

"The best opportunity to win in November rests with Senator Obama," Grijalva said. "I am proud to support Senator Obama as we move forward toward the nomination. This election is not merely about moving the pieces around in Washington D.C., but to fundamentally change the rules of the game. I am proud to help Senator Obama work toward that change."

From neighboring New Mexico, Gov. Bill Richardson said that if he decides to endorse a candidate it will be by the end of the week. His nod could help Obama in winning over Latino voters.

It is worth noting that a great many of Richardson's Latino supporters have now openly endorsed Barack Obama.

Make calls to February 5th voters



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California Absentee Ballots Due Feb. 5 (2008-01-29 13:24)

First absentee voters in California should note that ballots must be received at the registrar's office by Feb. 5. A postmark is not good enough.

If you are in doubt that it will arrive on time, you can deliver it personally to your county voter registrar's office. You can also vote early even if you aren't an absentee or mail voter and avoid long lines on Super Tuesday. You do this by voting in person at the registrar's office during business hours. Some counties also have special early voting sites set up in shopping malls and other public places with information available from the registrar's office.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Kathleen Sebelius Endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-29 13:29)

From barackobama.com:

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius Endorses Barack Obama in El Dorado, Kansas

By Sam Graham-Felsen - Jan 29th, 2008 at 2:34 pm EST



Senator Obama was endorsed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius today in El Dorado, Kansas. Governor Sebelius stated... I am especially pleased to announce my enthusiastic endorsement of Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States - because Barack Obama represents exactly the kind of change Kansans can believe in.

His candidacy offers the heartland values instilled by his mother and grandparents - all three native Kansans. Values of believing in something greater than ourselves, finding common sense solutions to problems, knowing that education is the doorway to opportunity, and working for the common good.

Senator Obama demonstrates a unique ability to reach across party lines - a quality we need now, right now, to unite our leaders and meet the serious challenges our country faces at home and abroad.

We are now in the process of choosing a Democratic nominee, yes; but, even more importantly to me, and to this country, we are choosing a leader for America.

And, on an especially personal note - I admire the way Senator Obama has inspired a younger generation of Americans, my own children included.

For months now, my two sons have implored me to make my admiration for Senator Obama public. To offer him my endorsement, and join this fight for change all of us can believe in. I am proud to do so today. Life at home will be easier for me after today, Barack, I assure you!



Barack spoke about how the how we can reclaim the American dream...

You know, we have been told for many years that we are becoming more divided as a nation. We have been made to believe that differences of race and region; wealth and gender; party and religion have separated us into warring factions; into Red States and Blue states made up of individuals with opposing wants and needs; with conflicting hopes and dreams.

It is a vision of America that's been exploited and encouraged by pundits and politicians who need this division to score points and win elections. But it is a vision of America that I am running for President to fundamentally reject – not because of a blind optimism I hold, but because of a story I've lived.

It's a story that began here, in El Dorado, when a young man fell in love with a young woman who grew up down the road in Augusta. They came of age in the midst of the Depression, where he found odd jobs on small farms and oil rigs, always dodging the bank failures and foreclosures that were sweeping the nation.

They married just after war broke out in Europe, and he enlisted in Patton's army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She gave birth to their daughter on the base at Fort Leavenworth, and worked on a bomber assembly line when he left for war.

In a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, my grandparents held on to a simple dream – that they could raise my mother in a land of boundless opportunity; that their generation's struggle and sacrifice could give her the freedom to be what she wanted to be; to live how she wanted to live.

I am standing here today because that dream was realized – because my grandfather got the chance to go to school on the GI Bill, buy a house through the Federal Housing Authority, and move his family west – all the way to Hawaii – where my mother would go to college and one day fall in love with a young student from Kenya.

I am here because that dream made my parents' love possible, even then; because it meant that after my father left, when my mother struggled as a single parent, and even turned to food stamps for a time, she was still able to send my sister and me to the best schools in the country.

And I'm here because years later, when I found my own love in a place far away called Chicago, she told me of a similar dream. Michelle grew up in a working-class family on the South Side during the 1960s. Her father had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at just thirty years old. And yet, every day of his life, even when he had to rely on a walker to get him there, Fraser Robinson went to work at the local water filtration plant while his wife stayed home with the children. And on that single salary, he was able to send Michelle and her brother to Princeton. Our family's story is one that spans miles and generations; races and realities. It's the story of farmers and soldiers; city workers and single moms. It takes place in small towns and good schools; in Kansas and Kenya; on the shores of Hawaii and the streets of Chicago. It's a varied and unlikely journey, but one that's held together by the same simple dream. And that is why it's American.



Obama highlighted his plan to help revitalize our economy and strengthen middle class families...

This will not be easy, but America's story tells me it's possible. My story tells me it's possible. What began here in Kansas all those years ago tells me it's possible.

Because as we face another time of anxiety and uncertainty – a time where foreclosures sweep the nation and families struggle to stay afloat; where loved ones leave for war and parents wonder what kind of world their children will inherit – I believe that this nation can rally around the simple dream that my grandparents held on to even in the darkest of days.

It's a dream that we can find a job with wages that support a family. That we can have health care that's affordable for when we get sick. That we can retire with dignity and security. And that we can provide our children with education and opportunity – so that they can be what they want to be and live how they want to live. They are the common dreams that can finally unite a nation around a common purpose.

There are those who will continue to tell us we cannot do this. That we cannot come together. That the divisions in our politics run too deep. That we are offering the American people false hopes.

But here's what I know.

I know that when I hear people say that we can't come together to lift up working families who are struggling in this economy, I think back to the streets of Chicago, where I began my career as a community organizer twenty-five years ago. In the shadow of a closed steel mill, we brought white people and black people and Latinos together to provide job training to the jobless and after school programs for children.

Block by block, we restored hope and opportunity to those neighborhoods, and I can believe we can do the same thing for the working families of America.



He continued...

Right now, there's an economic stimulus package moving through Congress that will provide a boost to the economy and to working families. It's similar to the one I proposed a few weeks ago, and would provide immediate tax relief for working families. I hope that when it's final, it will also provide relief to seniors and extend unemployment insurance to those who've lost their jobs.

But we need to do even more to restore fairness and balance to our economy. Last night, we heard the President say that he wanted to make his tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans permanent – again. Well we can't afford more George Bush tax cuts for those who don't need them and weren't even asking for them. It's time to give tax relief to the middle-class families who need it right now.

When I am President, we'll stop giving tax breaks to companies who ship our jobs overseas, and I'll put a middle-class tax cut into the pockets of working families. This tax cut will be worth up to \$1000 for a working family. We'll provide struggling homeowners some relief by giving them a tax credit that would cover ten percent of a family's mortgage interest payment every year. And we're also going to give seniors a break by eliminating income taxes for any retiree making less than \$50,000 a year, because every single American should be able to retire with dignity and respect.

That also means helping Americans save for retirement when they're still working. When I'm President, employers will be required to enroll every worker in a direct deposit retirement account that places a small percentage of each paycheck into savings. You can keep this account even if you change jobs, and the federal government will match the savings for lower-income, working families.

It's also time we had a President who won't wait another ten years to raise the minimum wage. I will raise it to keep pace every year so that workers don't fall behind. I'll institute a Credit Card Bill of Rights that will ban credit card companies from changing the agreement you signed up for, changing the interest rate on debt you've already incurred, or charging interest on late fees. Americans should pay what they owe, but they should also pay what's fair, not just what's profitable for some credit card company.

The same principle should apply to our bankruptcy laws. I opposed the credit card industry's bankruptcy bill that made it harder for working families to climb out of debt, and when I'm President, I'll make sure that CEOs can't dump your pension with one hand while they collect a bonus with the other. That's an outrage, and it's time we had a President who knows it's an outrage.

It's also time we had a President who stopped talking about the outrage of 47 million uninsured Americans and started doing something about it. When I hear that we can't come together and expand health care to the uninsured, I think back to how I was able to bring Democrats and Republicans together in Illinois to provide health insurance to 150,000 children and parents. And when I'm President, we'll finally pass a universal health care plan that will make sure every single American can get the same kind of health care that members of Congress get for themselves. My plan does more to cut costs than any other plan in this race – up to \$2500 for a typical family. And we won't pass it twenty years from now, not ten years from now – we'll pass health care by the end of my first term in office.

Click [here](#) for more on Obama's economic policy, and if you're from Kansas, check out KS.BarackObama.com to find out how you can get involved locally.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Campaign Ads (2008-01-29 15:56)

The first ad in Spanish features Congressman Luis Guterrez and it airs in Arizona and California.

[EMBED]

The next ad features Caroline Kennedy and is airing in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles and on cable tv nationwide.

[EMBED]

The next ad airing in Feb. 5 states features Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Connecticut Post endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-29 19:00)

The Connecticut Post endorsed Barack Obama today.



Barack Obama for the Democrats

Article Last Updated: 01/29/2008 07:36:03 PM EST

Experience matters. But it's not everything.

In staking her claim for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Clinton has made her decades in public life her top selling point. She alone among the available choices, she says, is able to step in and be ready to lead the nation on her first day in office.

Her argument is not without merit. But there are many politicians with more years of experience than she who have no business in the White House. Years of service is important, but nothing can substitute for good judgment and an ability to lead.

It is in this regard that the Connecticut Post endorses Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for his party's presidential nomination in the Feb. 5 Connecticut Democratic Presidential Primary. It's true, he is only in his first term in the U.S. Senate, but his life experience was formed in other realms, not just in Washington. For years, he served as a community organizer and advocate in some of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods. As a state senator in Illinois, he championed progressive causes and offered a forward-thinking, positive alternative to politics as usual.

He is also experienced as a citizen of the world. He is well known as the son of a mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya. He spent time growing up in Hawaii, maybe our most diverse state, and overseas, in Indonesia. Alone among serious presidential candidates, he understands our place in the world, and how to bring America and other nations closer together.

Clinton and Obama offer similar platforms, and would likely make many of the same choices in foreign and domestic policy. But in one key aspect, Obama stands above. In 2002, when war fever gripped the nation and Democrats lined up behind President Bush and his war of choice in Iraq, Obama spoke against it. It's true, he was not in the U.S. Senate, and therefore was not under the pressure his counterpart faced. But there is no excusing Sen. Clinton for supporting a war for what was, to all appearances, political expediency. Obama's desire for higher office was apparent even then, but he did not fall into that trap.

Finally, do not discount the ability of a leader to bring people together. No, the gridlock of Washington will not magically disappear with his inauguration, but Obama has brought untold numbers of young people into the political process through his vision, his hope and his eloquence. Combined with his sound judgment and political skills, he has the potential to be a president who ushers our nation into a new era.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Pres. Jimmy Carter talks up Barack Obama (2008-01-29 22:29)

Former President Jimmy Carter has decided not to formally endorse any candidate this cycle, but that did not stop him from heaping praise on Sen. Barack Obama.

"Obama's campaign has been extraordinary and titillating for me and my family," the 83-year-old Carter told the Wall Street Journal.

"He has an extraordinary oratory...I think that Obama will be almost automatically a healing factor in the animosity now that exists, that relates to our country and its government," said Carter, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. [EMBED]

In this video, Carter states that all his children and grandchildren except one are supporting Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



B.L. (2008-01-30 10:59:00)

As a life long Democrat I cannot understand why anyone would think that Obama would made a better President than Sen. Clinton. Just what is on his resume that makes him qualified to be President? As for him being like JFK, give me a break, please, that is the biggest fairy tale of all. Teddy should take his own advise and shut up.

B.L.

A WOMAN NOT FOR HILLARY (2008-01-30 13:45:00)

Well I my self have been a long time Democrat, and the way Hillary and that husband Bill has been display with this election is an outrage. The Clintons should be completely ashamed of themselves for acting like idiots! We are not pleased with the Clintons with that RACE issue that them alone started and the continue backbitting that Hillary is always doing, not to mention this last trick of hers with the Kenneys' family. Really i can't understand how anyone with sense could even vote for her. The Clintons have always been dirty with fights. My word, she can't bring this nation together. As soon as Mr. Kenney endorse Mr. Obama, Hillary got mad and went crying to the woman Kenney begging for support, Hillary don't care about people, Hillary cares about Hillary. I think that it was wrong for her to split up the Kenney Family in the national public. Because of her selfish ways the nations is talking bad about the divison on the Kenney family. Hillary is too seflish to untify this nation and all the dirty tacts and tricks she pulls, she should NOT BE PRESIDENT!! ALL THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE OBAMA.

John Edwards to withdraw from race (2008-01-30 07:53)

John Edwards will pull out of the presidential primary according to the Associated Press.

He is expected to make the announcement at a speech addressing poverty in New Orleans at 1 p.m. EST today.

Edwards will not immediately endorse one of the remaining two candidates according to campaign sources, AP reports.

It's difficult to predict how Edwards' withdrawal will effect Super Tuesday outcomes. There is one argument that Edwards competed with Barack Obama for white men, especially in the South. Some believe that Edwards splits the "white vote" with Hillary Clinton.

Still another argument is that the progressive wing of the party is mostly split between Edwards and Obama. One bit of evidence for this is that polls conducted by progressive forums like MoveOn.org and DailyKos generally tend to feature these two candidates battling for the lead.

I tend to believe that at least from the standpoint of volunteers and grassroots efforts, Obama will benefit more as a larger number of progressive activists move toward his campaign in the coming days. The powerful SEIU union has tended to favor either Edwards or Obama in this race, so we might see this powerful organization shift toward the latter's camp.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama Live in Denver (2008-01-30 10:59)

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Campaign Videos (2008-01-30 12:51)

Barack Obama speaks in El Dorado, Kansas.

[EMBED]

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius endorses Barack Obama in El Dorado, Kansas.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sen. Ted Kennedy: I'm Fired Up (2008-01-30 13:16)

Here's an email sent out earlier today by Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Dear Paul,

When I endorsed Barack Obama on Monday, I was also endorsing a candidate with the power to transform America.

As President Kennedy said in 1960, "It is time for a new generation of leadership."

This campaign is about a new generation of leadership today. A generation ready to be part of something bigger than themselves. A generation ready to change the country, and a generation ready to change the world.

I'm doing everything I can to elect Barack Obama . With less than a week before my state and 21 others make their voices heard, there is no time to lose.

Please join me by making a \$50 donation now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/newgeneration>

Like my son Patrick and my niece Caroline, I have found a new generation of leadership for America in Barack Obama – and I hope you have too!

Sincerely,

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

P.S. – You may have already seen clips of my speech or parts of it on Monday. But take a look here. The energy in that room was amazing, and it's spreading across America:



<https://donate.barackobama.com/newgeneration>



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Endorsement News (2008-01-30 13:50)

Barack Obama has received a bevy of endorsements recently some of them rather unusual.

From the press, the New York Post, The Stranger (Seattle) and Marin Independent-Journal (N. SF Bay, CA) are backing Obama. Here is the Post endorsement:

POST ENDORSES BARACK OBAMA

January 30, 2008 – Democrats in 22 states across America go to the polls next Tuesday to pick between two presidential prospects: Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

We urge them to choose Obama - an untried candidate, to be sure, but preferable to the junior senator from New York.

Obama represents a fresh start.

His opponent, and her husband, stand for déjà vu all over again - a return to the opportunistic, scandal-scarred, morally muddled years of the almost infinitely self-indulgent Clinton co-presidency.

Does America *really* want to go through all that once again?

It will - if Sen. Clinton becomes president.

That much has become painfully apparent.

Bill Clinton's thuggishly self-centered campaign antics conjure so many bad, sad memories that it's hard to know where to begin.

Suffice it to say that his Peck's-Bad-Boy smirk - the Clinton trademark - wore thin a very long time ago.

Far more to the point, Sen. Clinton could have reined him in at any time. But she chose not to - which tells the nation all it needs to know about what a Clinton II presidency would be like.

Now, Obama is not without flaws.

For all his charisma and his eloquence, the rookie senator sorely lacks seasoning: Regarding national security, his worldview is beyond naive; America must defend itself against those sworn to destroy the nation.

His all-things-to-all-people approach to complicated domestic issues also arouses scant confidence. "Change!" for the sake of change does not a credible campaign platform make. But he remains a highly intelligent man, with a strong record as a conciliator.

And, again, he is *not* Team Clinton.

That counts for a very great deal.

A return to Sen. Clinton's cattle-futures deal, Travelgate, Whitewater, Filegate, the Lincoln Bedroom Fire Sale, Pardongate - and the inevitable replay of the Monica Mess?

No, thank you.

And don't forget the Clintons' trademark political cynicism. How *elseto* explain Sen. Clinton's oft-contradictory policy stands: She voted for the war in Iraq, but now says it was a bad idea. She'd end it yesterday - but refuses to say how.

It's called "triangulation" - the Clintonian tactic by which the ends are played against the middle.

Once, it was effective - almost brilliant. Today, it is tired and tattered - and it reeks of cynicism and opportunism.

Finally, Sen. Clinton stands philosophically far to the left of her husband, and is much more disciplined in pursuit of her agenda.

At least Obama has the ability to inspire.

Again, we don't agree much with Obama on substantive issues.

But many Democrats will.

He should be their choice on Tuesday.

From the entertainment world, professional Hulk Hogan threw his support to Barack Obama. Designer Shepard Fairey is endorsing Barack with some new graphic art.



Shepard Fairey's New Poster Elizabeth B. Moynihan, the widow of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, is endorsing Obama. Brooklyn City Councilmember Simcha Felder, an Orthodox Jew, is supporting the Illinois senator.

Across the country in Los Angeles, the openly-gay city councilman Bill Rosendhal is for Obama.

Other political endorsements: Macon, Georgia Mayor Robert Reichert; Palo Alto City Council Members Yoriko Kishimoto and Yiaway Yeh; NJ Senate President Richard Codey; and Rep. Paul C. Casey (D-Winchester).

More than eighty Guantanamo lawyers are endorsing Obama. Here's part of their letter of support:

"Some politicians are all talk and no action. But we know from first-hand experience that Senator Obama has demonstrated extraordinary leadership on this critical and controversial issue. When others stood back, Senator Obama helped lead the fight in the Senate against the Administration's efforts in the Fall of 2006 to strip the courts of jurisdiction, and when we were walking the halls of the Capitol trying to win over enough Senators to beat back the Administration's bill, Senator Obama made his key staffers and even his offices available to help us. Senator Obama worked with us to count the votes, and he personally lobbied colleagues who worried about the political ramifications of voting to preserve habeas corpus for the men held at Guantanamo. He has understood that our strength as a nation stems from our commitment to our core values, and that we are strong enough to protect both our security and those values. Senator Obama demonstrated real leadership then and since, continuing to raise Guantanamo and habeas corpus in his speeches and in the debates...We need a President who will restore the rule of law, demonstrate our commitment to human rights, and repair our reputation in the world community. Based on our work with him, we are convinced that Senator Obama can do this because he truly feels these issues 'in his bones'"

And finally, Little India, describing itself as the largest circulation Indo-American magazine in America, is backing the Illinois senator:

Obama for President

There is something magical and transcendental in this moment about Sen. Barack Obama both for the country and the Indian American community.

By:

The Editors

Little India has decided to break from its tradition of staying out of the primary selections by endorsing Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic Party nomination for president. We take this unusual step as we have come to share his inspiring message and his call for the "fierce urgency of now."

We value the Clintons' long association with the Indian American community and with India, so the decision to endorse her opponent has not been easy. But there is something magical and transcendental in this moment about Sen. Obama both for the country and the Indian American community.

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His life story is in so many ways ours. In his political pursuits, he has defied both traditional paths pursued by minority politicians: identity politics built on narrow affiliations, typical of most ethnic leaders, as well as that of right wing politicians (like our own Bobby Jindal in Louisiana) who run from their history and identity. Obama, by contrast, has transcended boundaries. The Obama phenomenon, even if it does not get him the ultimate prize, offers something unique and it is important that we embrace this moment, for, as the Nobel Prize writer Toni Morrison wrote in her endorsement of Obama, "this is one of those singular moments that nations ignore at their peril."

We reject the proposition that Sen. Hillary Clinton's experience trumps the promise that Obama has to offer. As Sen. Obama has retorted: "One of my opponents says a vote for me would be a gamble. But the real gamble would be to do the same old things with the same old people over and over again and hope that the next time the results will somehow be different."

In the wake of the disastrous Bush presidency, Democrats are wistful about the Clinton era. In actual fact, the Clinton presidency was a period of political gridlock and public venom. Besides, Sen. Clinton already had an opportunity to shape public policy during Pres. Bill Clinton's term. We are likely to see a return of the stalemate and the tiresome and virulent conflicts of the 1990s if Clinton were the Democratic nominee. Indeed, the Clintons' subtle race-baiting tactics during the South Carolina primaries offer a preview of their divisive and ultimately futile scorched earth politics. Their reprehensible, win-at-all-costs, racially-laced attacks against Sen. Obama, even at the price of undermining their personal and historic commitments to racial justice, proved a tipping point for us, as they did for many other progressives in this country.

A Clinton supporter, Gloria Steinem, dubiously asserted that the gender barrier in politics is higher than the racial one, wondering: "Why is the sex barrier not taken as seriously as the racial one?"

But Sen. Clinton fails even by that measure, because her candidacy only underscores the painful stereotype that women's advancement begins at the altar. As Kerry Howley has tellingly pointed out, the first three women to serve in the Senate succeeded their husbands; six of the first 14 women elected to Congress were widows of incumbents and three others were daughters. Even Steinem would acknowledge that the gender barrier is better broken by a woman who wasn't riding her husband's coattails.

Sen. Obama, the son of an immigrant, offers an exciting opportunity to take Americans, men and women, of all races and affiliations, to an exciting new place and time. As Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., so eloquently said in his endorsement: "In Barack Obama, I see not just the audacity, but the possibility of hope for the America that is yet to be."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-30 16:14)

Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) just endorsed Barack Obama.

✖ Barack Obama inspires me. He gives me hope. He appeals to the best in us and in doing so, he restores the sense of idealism that brought me to public service. He challenges us to dream bigger and reach farther.

He reminds me of the people in my district: innovative, collaborative, optimistic and dedicated to change as a way to make things better.

Senator Obama also reminds me of John Kennedy who inspired my generation to fight injustice at home and to be ambassadors for democracy around the world. And he recalls Robert Kennedy who sought to heal a dispirited and divided nation and touched those who saw him as their champion for social justice.

Senator Obama's candidacy is historic, and so is the reaction to it. He has brought thousands of disaffected and skeptical people back into the political process and he has struck a chord with thousands of young voters. Still more are poised to participate in the days ahead.

Barack Obama is a true son of America. The country needs the benefit of his extraordinary life experience, as well as his practiced policy and leadership skills. As someone who works in Washington, but who lives on the other side of the country, I know how deeply engrained the "old ways" of Washington are, and how they often exclude and dismiss the aspirations of our people.

His candidacy presents an opportunity we cannot afford to pass by. Years from now, I do not want to ask "what if..." That's why I will do everything I can to see that Senator Obama wins the Democratic Party nomination and the Presidency of the United States.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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MAPA endorses Barack Obama (2008-01-30 20:47)

MAPA, the Mexican American Political Association, has endorsed Barack Obama in its newsletter sent out Wednesday.

SI SE PUEDE WITH OBAMA January 30, 2008

Greetings!

SI SE PUEDE WITH OBAMA

In various previous bulletins we have pointed out numerous contradictions and challenges facing us during this presidential campaign. The aspirations for political change that conforms to the myriad social needs of Latinos, the working majorities of the U.S., and all people of color are huge. Fair and humane immigration reform, an end to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and the return of U.S. troops to their loved ones, universal and affordable healthcare, fair versus "free" trade policies and an end to the export of millions of jobs, immediate relief to working families devastated by the subprime housing crisis, equitable and progressive tax rates, a reduction of the budget deficit not on the backs of working people, a restoration and protection of privacy rights and an end to government spying and surveillance on its citizens and residents, protected right to organize a union and negotiate a collective bargaining unit, an end to the era

of dependency on fossil fuels, the inviolability of women's right to choice and immediate access to health services - these and many more issues are moving millions of people into motion in search of relevant change in our country.

The real question before us is whether any of the current presidential candidates measures up to our expectations and aspirations for change within the context of a constrained political system dominated by two main political parties - Republican and Democratic, its various minor parties, but an ever growing and robust independent segment of the electorate?

The Mexican American Political Association (MAPA), the oldest political-civic organization of Mexican Americans and Latinos in the U.S., answers the question in the affirmative with some reservations. The task before us is enormous and we refuse to invest everything on one woman or man aspiring to assume the highest political office in the land, and expect that this will create the change we desire. This is only one element of the political equation. The majority of the responsibility for change is ours - our collective responsibility to create sweeping social movement and impose our political will as the majority producers of society. We do this by participating in political elections, mobilizations of masses of people, social protests, lobbying, sit-ins, petitions, recall of elected officials when necessary, and the use of many other tactics.

No political candidate is perfect, but which candidate comes closest to our ideal and speaks to our issues and interests, exudes confidence, demonstrates a track-record for integrity and speaking truth to power, and voting in favor of working peoples interests?

Our first choice was Congressman Dennis Kucinich. We firmly believe that his platform is our platform, and that his progressive trajectory as an elected official speaks for itself. However, for many reasons citizen Kucinich retired from the presidential primary race to pursue a re-election bid for his current seat. MAPA stood on principle to support the candidate who thoroughly stands for peace, fair trade, humane immigration reform, universal healthcare access, women's choice, worker's rights, and while his candidacy may have represented an impossible long- shot - we resolved that elections in and of themselves do not constitute the main measure of political change, and that our fight is a strategic one premised on deep-rooted organization of political conscious Latino workers and families in alliance with affinity constituencies.

However, something nasty in the national campaigns reared its head over the past two weeks, which motivated us to consider another endorsement for a presidential candidate of the Democratic Party primary elections. We have observed with utter disgust the use of racially divisive and polarizing tactics employed by the Clintons, both Hillary and Bill, against Senator Barack Obama, not the first presidential candidate of African American origin. This is something that we would have expected from Republican candidates, but instead it surfaced from the bowels of the center-right institutional currents of the Democratic Party. The tactics are absolutely deplorable and clearly demonstrate what the Clintons think of all people of color.

In other words, when they speak and refer to Senator Barack Obama in the racially disparaging manner in which they have, they are really referring to all of us people of color - African Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans. Perhaps worst yet, they think little of white members of the electorate wrongly believing that such tactics would move white voters away from Senator Obama - the scary specter of a black candidate with little experience and questionable credibility assuming the reins of power. The repeated claim by the Clintons' paid pollster, Sergio Bendixen that Latinos won't vote for a black man is one more example of the polarizing self-fulfilling prophecy injected into the campaign of late. Certainly they will deny such a charge, but then again, they are not people of color and have not been the victims of their own invective.

MAPA has historically supported candidates it believed were competent to represent the corresponding electorate irrespective of their national origin, race, gender or age. The content of their character is what mattered most to us.

The leadership and membership of MAPA have resolved to endorse Senator Barack Obama as the presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, who also just happens to be African American.

We also observe with great pride growing numbers of young white voters enthusiastically embracing the message of Senator Obama, black voters turning out in greater percentages than previous elections exuding pride and hope, Latino culinary union members who see themselves in the candidacy of the young senator, and women who deposit their faith in the intelligence and oratorical imagery displayed by candidate Barack Obama. All of this bodes well for the future of America - seeing beyond race - capable of assimilating the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Senator Obama is the only remaining candidate who has declared in favor of issuing driver's licenses to immigrants (much before the current campaign) and the right of immigrant youth to higher education through the Dream Act, pursuing humane immigration reform his first year in office, returning all U.S. combat troops from Iraq, (one of the few federal legislators who originally opposed the war publicly), and pursuing universal healthcare reform (albeit retaining a role for private insurance companies) - these are a few of his down-payment commitments to the electorate he seeks to convince that now is the time to carve the change required due to the current maladies plaguing the country. It is our obligation to move this campaign and candidacy still closer to the wishes and pressing needs of the majorities.

Si Se Puede con Obama, Yes We Can with Obama, is the recurring chant that we now will also raise to oppose those candidates who live in the past, seek dynasty, angle to divide and polarize us, or propose continued neo-liberal directions for the nation-state.

Si Se Puede with Obama, and with and by and for the people.

Nativo V. Lopez

National President

A crowd of about 13,000 was fired up for the Obama rally in Phoenix, Arizona with Gov. Janet Napolitano and Caroline Kennedy.





Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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College Newspapers Endorse Barack Obama (2008-01-31 07:04)

The Campus Press of Colorado University; The California Aggie of the University of California, Davis; The Chanticleer of Jacksonville State University; The Santa Clara of Santa Clara University; and the Trinity Tripod of Trinity College (CT) have all endorsed Barack Obama .

Here is the endorsement from The Santa Clara:

Obama: Best candidate for America's future

Issue date: 1/31/08 Section: Opinion

Originally published: 1/30/08 at 11:35 PM PST

For nearly eight years, Americans have watched TV in horror and opened newspapers with dread as the country has forsaken its ideals – and its people.

Every day troops die in a war begun by lies. America has become the curiosity of the international community, if not the laughing stock. The struggling economy has even spurred the Feds to intervention and led politicians to throw around the word "recession."

It's safe to say that Americans are ready for a change of pace.

And Senator Barack Obama is the perfect person to set this pace.

Perhaps it's Obama's claim that he believes "in what the country can be" that has inspired such an outpouring of support for him. Indeed, this image of what the country could be under Obama's leadership is an enticing one.

As president, Obama hopes to end the war and have all combat personnel home within 16 months of his election. And rather than promoting a transnational war on terror as a selling point of his candidacy, Obama has vowed to work to increase regional diplomacy in tense areas like the Middle East.

With less money put toward the war effort, Obama hopes to provide a \$4,000 yearly tax credit for college students, a number that seems small in light of the \$33,000 that is Santa Clara's tuition, but a very real sum for students attending state and community colleges.

Obama also has plans to reform the ailing health care system. He looks toward universal coverage that will serve as a form of quality control for private systems that charge too much to do too little.

As tempting as all this may seem, Obama's supporters are less enthralled by his policies than his personal invitation to join him in this "movement for change."

For the first time since John F. Kennedy, a presidential candidate is offering the American people an active role in shaping the nation's destiny. Lamenting the ways Washington, D.C., has alienated the American people, Obama promises to involve citizens in federal government.



And after all, isn't that what all freedom-loving and democracy-trusting Americans want – to work with their chosen leader as "one people, reaching for what's possible"?

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.





Campaign Goodies at Obama Store (2008-01-31 08:31)

The Obama Store has some great campaign items for sell. All the money earned from the items goes toward funding the campaign effort.

Long sleeve shirts  



Yard signs, fans, placards  



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Obama Endorsement News (2008-01-31 09:48)

From the political front, three superdelegates endorsed Barack Obama today: Reps. John Larson and Chris Murphy from Connecticut, and Rep. Earl Pomeroy from North Dakota.

In San Francisco, State Senator Leland Yee endorsed Obama, a move that should help the candidate make inroads with the Bay Area's Asian Pacific Islander community.

From the press, The Minnesota Daily, the Santa Fe New Mexican, the Belmont Citizen-Herald (MA), The Phoenix, a Boston weekly, the Sacramento News & Review, the Chico News & Review (CA) and Gay City News (NYC) are backing Obama.

There are also rumors flying around that John Edwards may endorse Obama on Friday. Robert Novak reported that

Edwards and Obama may have reached a deal in which the former would become Attorney General if Obama is elected. There are also reports that Edwards' "inner circle" is advising him to team up with Obama. I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Below is the endorsement from the Santa Fe New Mexican:



Editorial: Our nation needs a Democrat; Obama's a better choice

On the other side of this weekend lies Super Tuesday — or Super Duper Tuesday in its new, 24-state form that could well determine both parties' presidential nominees.

New Mexico is part of it — a small part, given our big state's small population, but there's enough of a role that the two remaining Democratic challengers are mounting campaigns for the 26 of our 38 convention delegates to be chosen that day — out of 2,000 nationwide — in what's being called a party caucus.

Far from being a gathering of politically like-minded people, and unlike the barn-dance event it's become in first-in-the-nation Iowa, ours amounts to a single-office primary election (more about this tomorrow). But at least our half-million registered Democrats, at costs being picked up by their party, will have a say on the day most of the American people can choose a nominee. As for the human-gestation stretch of time between Feb. 5 and Nov. 4, how 'bout putting the candidates in cold storage — at least until Labor Day ...

The nation needs a Democratic president — mostly for the sake of the Supreme Court and the rest of the federal judiciary, but also because our government's policies, foreign and domestic, are badly out of kilter.

There are many good Republicans embarrassed to tears by the Bush-Cheney administration — and they'll be quick to remind their fellow Americans that, come January, those two are outthere. So elect John McCain or Mitt Romney, and things will be fine; at least finer than they are now ...

Not good enough; eight years of the best that party could offer us is plenty for now. Despite our high personal regard for Sen. McCain, we think it will take Democratic leadership to undo past wrongs, recover the reputation of our globally humiliated country and restore economic and social justice.

But the same operatives who fooled our nation not once, but twice, into Bush-Cheney already are plotting another puppet regime controlled by corporate scoundrels. They'd be ecstatic at the prospect of Democrats floating a Clinton co-presidency, and they've been rubbing their hands with glee during recent weeks as the former president mounted the stage on behalf of his wife, one of the two remaining candidates.

This is the president who unnecessarily lied about an affair with a White House intern; who fecklessly fired off missiles to distract the nation from his all-too-human failings; who, as we noted at the time, should have resigned, or should have been impeached — and was.

Bill Clinton back in a White House he left in the wake of scandalous presidential pardons? The Karl Roves of this world would have a field day with a dual-Clinton candidacy, whether or not the ex-president were to go back in the closet and let the extremely sharp senator run on her own. The nation's newspaper readers and TV audiences would be in for nine months of propaganda far beyond mere mudslinging.

Hillary Clinton is only one of two outstanding candidates for the Democratic nomination, and The New Mexican endorses the other: Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

Shorter on experience, he also is unsullied by the quid-pro-quo world of Washington. That puts him in excellent position:

To lead a long-overdue initiative toward universal health care;

To lead another overdue initiative, on a new nationwide energy source;

To lead our public schools out of the doldrums;

To lead the country back to financial solvency and economic independence.

To lead, indeed. Sen. Obama is someone Americans can rally 'round.

His honesty will confound those trying to twist voters' perception of him and the working-people's party; his genuineness will disarm critics jaded over politics-by-rrote; his academic brilliance and organizing skills will allow him to handle the complexities of the presidency; and his oratorical skills and compelling personality will inspire a long-lax nation to get off its collective butt and achieve what we're capable of.

New Mexico Democrats can catch an exciting new wave with votes for Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



the sojourner (2008-01-31 11:05:00)

Hooray! It's always refreshing to see a media outlet get it right. We need a Democrat, but we don't just need any Democrat—we need Barack Obama. It also means that people all over the country recognize this need, not just Iowa and South Carolina, but New York, Massachusetts, California, and New Mexico as well. Thanks for bringing all the endorsements to our attention.

Obama Endorsements Still Pouring In (2008-01-31 12:27)

Former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker endorsed Barack Obama today. From the Wall Street Journal:

"After 30 years in government, serving under five Presidents of both parties and chairing two non-partisan commissions on the Public Service, I have been reluctant to engage in political campaigns. The time has come to overcome that reluctance," Mr. Volcker said in a statement today. "However, it is not the current turmoil in markets or the economic uncertainties that have impelled my decision. Rather, it is the breadth and depth of challenges that face our nation at home and abroad. Those challenges demand a new leadership and a fresh approach."

Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson announced his support of the Illinois senator today.

"When you read what he is proposing, you can actually see it happening, because he can bring together groups who need to be brought together to bring this country forward. He is showing more than anyone he can bring together young and old, black and white, people of all colors, and that is why I feel he is the right candidate at this time."

Four delegates supporting John Edwards have endorsed Barack Obama now that Edwards has left the race.

Betsy Feist and Jeremiah Frei-Pearson of New York City's 14th Congressional district, and Marc A. Landis and Bobby Berlin of NYC's 8th Congressional district are throwing their support to Obama. These are not superdelegates, and will only be pledged if at 15 percent vote threshold is met.

The weekly Colorado Springs Independent also endorsed Obama today.

Caucuses: Colorado's voice in the race

By RALPH ROUTON AND JOHN WEISS

After months of watching the presidential race on TV, with only a few scattered "live" campaign-related events in the area, Colorado voters finally have the chance to influence the outcome.

It's just not as easy here. Instead of a presidential primary, Colorado is among the few conducting caucuses. That's the format, for Republicans and Democrats — separately, of course, on Feb. 5, as our state joins 23 others taking part in Tsunami Tuesday.

Obama campaign

Instead of having all day to vote (or submitting an absentee ballot), voters must participate in their local party precinct caucus, often at schools or churches, starting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5. The gathering, lasting up to 90 minutes, gives you a chance to meet neighbors sharing your political registration.

The *Independent* marks the occasion with a ringing endorsement and a halfhearted recommendation. Most importantly, our first concern is encouraging everyone to make their voices heard on an evening when far fewer than 10 percent of registered voters will likely participate.

We'd prefer an old-fashioned primary, and we support any effort for Colorado to go that way in 2012. But for now, our only choice is to embrace caucus participation. Sure, it'll be different, but also educational and, we hope, rewarding.

Endorsement:

Barack Obama

The best part of this Democratic presidential race is having a choice, even after the field has narrowed with John Edwards the latest withdrawal after the demise of Bill Richardson, Dennis Kucinich, Chris Dodd and Joseph Biden.

Democrats have two remaining options: Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. But Obama's inspiring theme — "Yes, we can" — has brought a freshness to the campaign.

On the significant issues, there is no real gulf separating the two U.S. senators, both of whom are sharp lawyers. The true strength of any president lies in assembling a gifted, diverse nucleus of top officials and advisers, and either front-runner would recruit a "super team" (with the same pool available to both) for the next administration.

For us, Obama's skills as a community organizer, his multiracial and international background, his ability to inspire 18- to 35-year-olds to vote (many for the first time) and his zeal to end partisan pandering provide America with the best chance to undo the damage President Bush has inflicted. We also like that the Obama campaign has a staffed Pikes Peak campaign office, which has superbly mobilized and educated local citizens.

We acknowledge Clinton's experience, but she has overplayed that hand with the exaggeration that she's been "doing this for 35 years." And we wish she would have muzzled her husband before he manipulated and twisted Obama's record. A former president should be a statesman, not a player in gutter politics.

For the past 20 years, the Oval Office has been occupied by a Bush or a Clinton. At this point in our history, we need a new vision. A Clinton presidency would be focused on the possible, based more on poll numbers and efficient compromises, while Obama has the Robert Kennedy-like ability to unite and uplift our polarized nation, to restore our government's moral leadership at home and throughout the world, and to use his fresh, exciting energy and vision to rally Americans to be all they can be.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Campaign Rallies (2008-01-31 15:27)

Edwards' Union supporters expected to back Obama (2008-01-31 17:33)

According to Sal Rosselli of United Health Workers, the 650,000 strong Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in California will endorse Barack Obama

on Friday. The union had previously backed John Edwards.

Another union from the Edwards camp, the Transport Workers Union with 200,000 members, is also expected to endorse Obama on Friday.

Two unions backing Edwards, United Steelworkers and the United Mine Workers along with the AFL-CIO are expected to wait until a clear front-runner emerges before endorsing a candidate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama talks immigration policy during debate (2008-01-31 20:33)

Check out Barack Obama's statements on immigration policy during tonight's debate. Also, parts of his speech from a rally earlier today in Los Angeles.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



the sojourner (2008-02-01 01:03:00)

This demonstrates Obama's brilliance: he is walking a fine line, balancing his identity as a black man while at the same time reaching out to people of all ethnicities. While the media flounders around the issue of race, Obama responds with eloquence and grace.

There's nothing more to say, other than we need this man as our president.

2.2 February

Obama News on Friday (2008-02-01 08:32)

The Obama campaign is now saturating 24 states with television ads as Barack and Michelle stump largely in smaller states until Sunday when Barack appears in Delaware.

On the endorsement front. The Nation, the Chicago Sun-Times, The Brooklyn Paper, Aspen Times (CO), Oneonta Daily Star (NY), Eagle Tribune (MA) and The Salem News (MA) are backing Barack Obama.
Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut is expected to endorse Obama on Saturday.
Tiger Woods heaped praise on Obama during a golf tournament in Dubai.

“I’ve seen him speak. He’s extremely articulate, very thoughtful,” Woods said. “I’m just impressed at how well, basically all politicians really do, how well they think on their feet. Especially those debates. It’s pretty phenomenal to see them get their point across. But I just think that he’s really inspired a bunch of people in our country and we’ll see what happens down the road.”

From Roland Martin, we learn that Clarence B. Jones Martin Luther King’s lawyer and speechwriter, and author of “What Martin Would Say,” has endorsed Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Good Judgment on Day One (2008-02-01 10:15)

Barack Obama speaks about his judgment on the Iraq War.

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Obama Mobile

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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MoveOn.org endorses Barack Obama for President (2008-02-01 10:33)

MoveOn.org, with 1.7 million members in Feb. 5 states, made its first primary endorsement ever backing Sen. Barack Obama today. The organization’s website encouraged members to volunteer for the Obama ground campaign with heavy duty get out the vote efforts starting tomorrow.

Here is MoveOn.org’s press release on the endorsement:

MoveOn Endorsement Throws Progressive Weight Behind Barack Obama

3.2 Million Members Nationwide Mobilize to Get Out the Progressive Vote for Senator Obama Group Has Over 1.7 Million Members In Super Tuesday States

In a resounding vote today, MoveOn.org Political Action's members nationwide voted to endorse Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for President. The group, with 3.2 million members nationwide and over 1.7 million members in Super Tuesday states, will immediately begin to mobilize on behalf of Senator Obama. The vote favored Senator Obama to Senator Clinton by 70.4 % to 29.6 %.

Senator Obama accepted the endorsement stating:

"In just a few years, the members of MoveOn have once again demonstrated that real change comes not from the top-down, but from the bottom-up. From their principled opposition to the Iraq war - a war I also opposed from the start - to their strong support for a number of progressive causes, MoveOn shows what Americans can achieve when we come together in a grassroots movement for change. I thank them for their support and look forward to working with their members in the weeks and months ahead."

Eli Pariser, MoveOn.org's Executive Director, issued the following statement on the group's endorsement:

"Our members' endorsement of Senator Obama is a clear call for a new America at this critical moment in history. Seven years of the disastrous policies of the Bush Administration have left the country desperate for change. We need a President who will bring to bear the strong leadership and vision required to end the war in Iraq, provide health care to every American, deal with our climate crisis, and restore America's standing in the world. The enormity of the challenges require someone who knows how to inspire millions to get involved to change the direction of our country, and someone who will be willing to change business as usual in Washington. Senator Barack Obama has proved he can and will be that President.

"With 3.2 million members nationwide and over 1.7 million members in states that vote next Tuesday, we'll be able to immediately jump into action in support of Senator Obama's candidacy. We've learned that the key to achieving change in Washington without compromising core values is having a galvanized electorate to back you up. And Barack Obama has our members 'fired up and ready to go' on that front.

"We congratulate Sens. Clinton, Dodd and Biden, former Senator Edwards, Governor Richardson, Congressman Kucinich and former Senator Gravel on running tremendous campaigns. We thank them for their contributions to the important debate that has gripped our nation and for their ongoing engagement with our members. We're looking forward to working together to bring progressive values to the nation's capitol and to end this disastrous war in Iraq. MoveOn members are committed to putting a Democrat in the White House in 2008 and ushering in a new era of progressive values no matter who wins the nomination."

MoveOn members' comments in the vote reflect the reasons they support Senator Obama:

"Obama's grassroots organizing experience and unifying message combine to show he will work for working people and speak to a broad cross section of the American public. We need this," said Linda Blong of Pennngrove, CA.

"There are defining moments in our nation's political history and this is one of them. Barack Obama appeals to the very BEST of the American Spirit," said Estina Baker, Hackensack, NJ

"Barack Obama represents CHANGE in so many levels. He brings HOPE that America can, again, be respected by the rest of the world and that Americans can be proud, again, of our leaders!" Isabelle Mollien, Denver, CO

"Obama has the ability to draw people to him, to energize people who generally don't vote, to create an atmosphere of long-overdue possibility around himself and what he could bring to the office. It is my

belief that he can re-establish the lost connection between the American people and their leader, and put our country back on course to be a positive force in the world.” Matthew Smith in Columbus, OH

MoveOn’s endorsement means a fresh infusion of people-power for Obama in the critical days before Super Tuesday. MoveOn will immediately connect thousands of progressive activists into the Obama GOTV volunteer operation. It will also use the same cutting-edge computer-based phone program that made 7 million GOTV calls for Democrats in 2006 to allow MoveOn members to call other MoveOn members in Feb. 5 states and encourage them to vote for Obama.

Today’s endorsement is the first time MoveOn.org has endorsed a candidate for President in the Democratic primary. Over the past year, MoveOn surveyed a rotating sample of 30,000 members each week to determine their membership’s preference in the Democratic presidential primary. For months, MoveOn members were divided among many candidates – as many waited to see who would take bold progressive positions on the issues. As the primary race has gained momentum, the polling showed a consensus forming and, with Senator John Edward’s withdrawal from the race, members made their decision in favor of Senator Obama. The vote took place from Thursday, January 31st to Friday, February 1st.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dean Florez on GOTV (2008-02-01 13:11)

Check out the YouTube video where California State Senator Dean Florez talks about the importance of grassroots and the get out the vote effort in the final push until the polls close on Tuesday, Feb. 5 .

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



ObamaForPrez (2008-02-01 14:47:00)

Hey, nice blog, I made a map for all obama supporters to show their support, here’s the link:

<http://www.obamaworldwide.com/SupporterMap.aspx>

Here is the Digg Link:

http://www.digg.com/2008_us_elections/barack_obama_worldwide_supporter_map_get_on_the_map/all

I’m adding a link pages right now and i’ll add your blog, feel free to make a post, you can also embed the charts on the statistic pages and they’ll stay up-to-date!

Los Angeles Times Endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-01 15:23)

The Los Angeles Times, the most widely-read newspaper in California, endorsed Barack Obama today.

Los Angeles Times

Barack Obama for Democratic nominee

Endorsements for president 2008

February 3, 2008

Democrats preparing to vote in Tuesday's California primary can mark their ballots with confidence, knowing that either candidate would make a strong nominee and, if elected, a groundbreaking leader and capable president. But just because the ballot features two strong candidates does not mean that it is difficult to choose between them. We urge voters to make the most of this historic moment by choosing the Democrat most focused on steering the nation toward constructive change: We strongly endorse Barack Obama.

The U.S. senator from Illinois distinguishes himself as an inspiring leader who cuts through typical internecine campaign bickering and appeals to Americans long weary of divisive and destructive politics. He electrifies young voters, not because he is young but because he embodies the desire to move to the next chapter of the American story. He brings with him deep knowledge on foreign relations and on this nation's particular struggles with identity and opportunity. His flair for expression, both in print and on the stump, too easily leads observers to forget that Obama is a man not just of style but of substance. He's a thoughtful student of the Constitution and an experienced lawmaker in his home state and, for the last three years, in the Senate.

On policy, Obama and his rival Democratic candidate, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, are a hairsbreadth apart. Both vow to pull troops from Iraq. Both are committed to healthcare reform. Both offer candid critiques of the failed George W. Bush presidency, its blustering adventurism, its alienating stance toward other countries and its cavalier disregard for sacred American values such as individual liberty and due process of law.

With two candidates so closely aligned on the issues, we look to their abilities and potential as leaders, and their record of action in service of their stated ideals. Clinton is an accomplished public servant whose election would provide familiarity and, most important, competence in the White House, when for seven years it has been lacking. But experience has value only if it is accompanied by courage and leads to judgment.

Nowhere was that judgment more needed than in 2003, when Congress was called upon to accept or reject the disastrous Iraq invasion. Clinton faced a test and failed, joining the stampede as Congress voted to authorize war. At last week's debate and in previous such sessions, Clinton blamed Bush for abusing the authority she helped to give him, and she has made much of the fact that Obama was not yet in the Senate and didn't face the same test. But Obama was in public life, saw the danger of the invasion and the consequences of occupation, and he said so. He was right.

Obama demonstrates as well that he is open-eyed about the terrorist threat posed to the nation, and would not shrink from military action where it is warranted. He does not oppose all wars, he has famously stated, but rather "dumb wars." He also has the edge in economic policy, less because of particular planks in his platform than because of his understanding that some liberal orthodoxies developed during the last 40 years have been overtaken by history. He offers leadership on education, technology policy and environmental protection unfettered by the positions of previous administrations.

By contrast, Clinton's return to the White House that she occupied for eight years as first lady would resurrect some of the triumph and argument of that era. Yes, Bill Clinton's presidency was a period of growth and opportunity, and Democrats are justly nostalgic for it. But it also was a time of withering political fire, as the former president's recent comments on the campaign trail reminded the nation. Hillary Clinton's election also would drag into a third decade the post-Reagan political duel between two families, the Bushes and the Clintons. Obama is correct: It is time to turn the page.

An Obama presidency would present, as a distinctly American face, a man of African descent, born in the

nation's youngest state, with a childhood spent partly in Asia, among Muslims. No public relations campaign could do more than Obama's mere presence in the White House to defuse anti-American passion around the world, nor could any political experience surpass Obama's life story in preparing a president to understand the American character. His candidacy offers Democrats the best hope of leading America into the future, and gives Californians the opportunity to cast their most exciting and consequential ballot in a generation.

In the language of metaphor, Clinton is an essay, solid and reasoned; Obama is a poem, lyric and filled with possibility. Clinton would be a valuable and competent executive, but Obama matches her in substance and adds something that the nation has been missing far too long – a sense of aspiration.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Endorsement Wave Keeps Rolling (2008-02-01 15:53)

The support for Barack Obama is coming in so fast it's hard to keep track of it all.

Here are some of the new endorsements.

From the press, the Native Times, Oakland Tribune, Contra Costa Times (CA), Yale Daily News (CT), and The Statesman (Stony Brook University) are backing Obama.

The owner of the Oakland Tribune also owns other Bay Area newspapers that will also carry the same endorsement: San Mateo County Times, Tri-Valley Herald, The Argus, The Daily Review and the Alameda Times-Star. These papers cover the entire Bay Area.

The very powerful California SEIU labor organization will be rallying their members behind Obama after endorsing the Illinois senator today.

Elected official endorsements include Reps. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and Jim Oberstar of Minnesota.

Kansas Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson is supporting Obama as is Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Caroline Kennedy Rally this Sunday in Los Angeles (2008-02-01 16:04)

Talk about surrogates!

Announcement: Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Caroline Kennedy Rally this Sunday in Los Angeles

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Friday, February 01, 2008 at 02:58 PM

The Obama for America campaign today announced that Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Caroline Kennedy will hold a Get Out The Vote Rally this Sunday in Los Angeles. The rally will be free and open to the public. More details will be released when they become available.

WHO: Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, and Caroline Kennedy

WHEN: Sunday, February 3rd

WHAT: Get Out The Vote Rally

WHERE: Los Angeles, CA

For more information visit california.barackobama.com/michelleinla. Further details will be announced.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Seattle Post-Intelligencer Endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-01 19:11)

The Post-Intelligencer, Seattle's oldest newspaper, endorsed Barack Obama today.



P-I Endorsement: A time for change

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER EDITORIAL BOARD

Washington voters begin having their official say on the 2008 presidential election this week with the field substantially narrowed.

In this week's caucuses and the primaries that follow, Democrats are fortunate to have a difficult choice between two capable leaders whose largely similar visions on global warming, health care and the economy offer the best hopes for this country's future. In this history-making race, Sen. Barack Obama is the better choice over his worthy rival, Sen. Hillary Clinton, because of the real prospects he offers for change in domestic policy, the tone of government in Washington, D.C., and the conduct of foreign affairs.

We are less enamored of the Republicans. Undisturbed by a wrongly launched war of aggression, the leading contenders have competed to show who would be best at standing by the Bush-Cheney legacy of arrogant intervention. Despite his embrace of a particularly dangerous stance on Iraq, Sen. John McCain stands out on the basis of his forceful climate change position, his independence and his distinguished record of public service.

If the two races remain undecided after Super Tuesday, Washington residents will have a rare opportunity to have a voice in the nomination outcomes, joining a healthy national conversation in which the public, more than the media, has taken seriously the prospects for change.

We're delighted the state's Feb. 9 caucuses offer plenty of excitement. The Feb. 19 presidential primary vote will help determine Republican delegate allocations (kudos to the GOP for respecting voters). But it's regrettable that Democrats have relegated their primary to beauty-contest status, a process that flies in the face of the party's own name. It's anything but democratic.

Barack Obama

Sen. Obama has emerged as an impressive, balanced thinker with a charismatic presence. His ability to address a wide range of ideas in nuanced yet deeply inspirational fashion could re-energize political discourse in a manner reminiscent of Franklin D. Roosevelt because Obama has the potential to lift us into a transformative era. Right now, too many Americans see their lives distorted by the misdirected post-9/11 age of secrecy, fear and division. Obama can help the country close that chapter.

The Illinois senator is a candidate particularly well equipped to improve the nation's performance in the world at large. Obama starts from sound, well-considered positions. He opposed the wrongfully launched Iraq invasion. After years in which U.S. leaders have forgone critical diplomatic opportunities with Iran and North Korea, Obama would start from a bolder, more engaged position. He would understand broader parts of the world in a more personal way than any recent president because he lived in Indonesia and has connections with Africa. His presence in the White House would cause the world to look to this country with a renewed hope for positive leadership.

On domestic issues, Obama's instinct for compromise offers a larger hope for a creative, less-contentious pursuit of a society with better education, health care and job opportunities.

For all practical purposes, a Hillary Clinton presidency could open just as many or more doors at home and abroad. Despite our differences with her Iraq war vote, we believe she would pursue Iraq questions skillfully. Democratic caucus-goers will have legitimate debates about whether her hard-won experience or Obama's freshness will better translate into much-needed changes on environmental, health and economic-equity questions. Either could be a worthy general election candidate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

MySpace-MTV "Closing Arguments" (2008-02-01 20:20)

From barackobama.com:

Young Voters Organizing, MySpace-MTV Dialogue & New Ringtones!

by Scott Goodstein

Friday, February 01, 2008 at 07:47 PM

With so many issues directly affecting young voters, it is exciting to see the overwhelming support our campaign is receiving from this new generation of voters. As Barack has said many times before, "our nation is at war; our planet is in peril," and it truly is time for the next generation to carry the torch. Please view this online video of how the young voters are not just voting for Barack Obama, but organizing for him. [EMBED]

MySpace and MTV are doing another "Presidential Dialogue" in the final days before the Super Tuesday Election. You can watch it live on MTV or online at MySpace.com.



New Ringtones!

Visit Obama Mobile to check out our new ringtones! Make sure all your friends know who you are supporting in the days ahead. There are even versions of Barack chants of "Fired up, Ready to Go!" My personal favorite the one where Barack says, "It's time we all answer the call!"

[EMBED]

Text Ringtone 11 to 62262

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Barack speaks on Education in Santa Fe (2008-02-01 21:28)

Barack Obama talks about "our children" in Santa Fe, New Mexico today.

[EMBED]



Action Center

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



La Opinión endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-02 07:28)

La Opinión, the largest Spanish newspaper in the United States, endorsed Barack Obama today. Here is the endorsement in both Spanish and English.



La opción demócrata es Barack Obama

El Partido Demócrata llega a la primaria de California con una oferta histórica entre dos candidatos extraordinarios. Creemos que entre ellos el senador Barack Obama representa realmente el cambio en una campaña en que "el cambio" es el tema central. Los puntos sobre inmigración del legislador de Illinois y su visión inspiradora es lo que necesita el país para salir del sentimiento actual de agotamiento político.

No hay duda de que la senadora Hillary Clinton sería una presidenta excelente si fuera electa. Es una mujer capaz, competente, disciplinada y trabajadora que ha demostrado talento como legisladora y que tiene la posición correcta en la mayoría de los temas. Su plan para un seguro de salud universal es un ejemplo de las valiosas iniciativas que ha propuesto la candidata. Sería grandioso poder elegir a la primera mujer presidente de esta nación.

La senadora ha obtenido un respaldo significativo de influyentes y reconocidos líderes nacionales latinos como Raúl Yzaguirre, Henry Cisneros y el alcalde Antonio Villaraigosa. Ella trabajó arduamente durante muchos años representando el mejor interés de los latinos y su compromiso personal está documentado a lo largo de esta campaña.

Sin embargo, este es un momento histórico donde la gran capacidad y experiencia de la senadora es insuficiente para brindar al país el sentido de renovación que necesita después de ocho años de George W. Bush.

Nos ha desilusionado también la calculada oposición de Clinton a las licencias de conducir para los indocumentados, que contrasta con la contundencia de los argumentos de Obama a favor de las mismas. Sabemos que eso es muy controversial, pero hay una sola posición correcta y es la del legislador de Illinois. Ambos senadores respaldan una reforma integral de inmigración, pero Obama es el único que se comprometió a presentar de nuevo el proyecto de ley durante su primer año de gobierno.

Ese mismo compromiso con el tema migratorio llevó a Obama a condenar en un debate las mentiras que se dicen maliciosamente sobre ellos; a comprender la necesidad de las licencias y a defender a los estudiantes indocumentados con la coautoría del DREAM Act en la Legislatura. El senador ha mostrado carácter, manteniendo su línea pese al antagonismo del clima político.

Al mismo tiempo, no existe una gran diferencia entre los dos demócratas en la mayoría de los temas más importantes; por eso la visión marca la diferencia. Obama tiene un mensaje inclusivo y de esperanza, necesario para los momentos que vive el país. Él reúne las condiciones conciliadoras para revertir el círculo vicioso de rencor que desde hace décadas predomina en Washington y paraliza las grandes decisiones necesarias.

Necesitamos un presidente que de nuevo inspire y una a los ciudadanos alrededor de las grandes posibilidades que nos brinda el futuro. Obama es el líder adecuado para este momento. Sabemos que no es muy conocido en nuestra comunidad y si bien tiene el respaldo de María Elena Durazo, del senador Gil Cedillo y de otros. No obstante, es quien hoy merece el respaldo de la comunidad latina.

Los demócratas ya están haciendo historia al tener que decidir su candidato a presidente entre una mujer y un afroamericano.

Barak Obama tiene la sensibilidad de un origen humilde, de un hogar multicultural y es la mejor opción para un cambio visionario.

The Democratic choice is Barack Obama

The Democratic Party arrives at the California primary with a historic choice between two extraordinary candidates. We believe that of the two, Senator Barack Obama represents fundamental change in a campaign in which "change" has become a central theme. Obama's approach to immigration and his inspiring vision are what the country need to break through the current feeling of political malaise.

There is no doubt that Senator Hillary Clinton would be an excellent president if elected. She is capable, competent, disciplined, and hard working. She has shown herself to be a talented legislator and is on the right side of the major issues. Her plan for universal health care is one example of the courageous initiatives she has proposed as a candidate. And it would be wonderful to elect the country's first woman president.

She has garnered significant Latino support from such influential and high profile national leaders as Raúl Yzaguirre, Henry Cisneros and Antonio Villaraigosa. She has worked tirelessly over many years to represent the best interests of Latinos and her personal commitment has been well-documented throughout this campaign.

Yet, this is a historic moment and tremendous skills and experience are not enough to inspire a feeling of renewal in our country after eight long years of George W. Bush.

As well, we were disappointed with her calculated opposition to driver's licenses for the undocumented, which contrasts markedly from the forceful argument in support made by Obama. We understand that this is an extremely controversial issue but we believe there is only one right position and it is that of the senator from Illinois. And, while both senators support comprehensive immigration reform, only Obama has committed to bringing forward new legislation during his first year in office.

It is this commitment to the immigration issue which drove Obama to condemn the malicious lies made during the immigration debate, to understand the need for driver's licenses, and to defend the rights of undocumented students by co-authoring the DREAM Act. The senator has demonstrated character by maintaining his position despite the hostile political climate.

At the same time, there are not huge differences between the two Democratic candidates on most of the major issues. Thus, vision makes the difference! Obama offers an inclusive message of hope that addresses our country's historic moment. He has a conciliatory style that can reverse the vicious

cycle of rancor which has dominated Washington over these past decades and has paralyzed its ability to come together on major decisions.

We need a leader today that can inspire and unite America again around its greatest possibilities. Barack Obama is the right leader for the time. We know that he is not as well known among our community and while he has the support of Maria Elena Durazo, Senator Gil Cedillo and others he comes to the Latino community with less name recognition. Nevertheless, it is Obama who deserves our support.

By deciding between a woman or an African American as their presidential nominee, the Democrats are making history. Barack Obama has the sensibilities of a man from humble beginnings raised in a multicultural home. He is the best option for a truly visionary change.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Albuquerque Tribune endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-02 07:52)

The Albuquerque Tribune endorses Barack Obama today.



Editorial: The Trib endorses Barack Obama in Tuesday's N.M. Democratic presidential caucus Tribune staff
Saturday, February 2, 2008

We have a dream.

In it, a new, young president inspires all Americans to rise above partisan politics, gender, race, religion, region, money, ideology and economic philosophy to make this nation all that it can be.

That young president of vision and promise is the charismatic Barack Obama, the first-term Democratic Illinois senator whose presidential campaign has caught fire. We add fuel to his blaze by endorsing him in Tuesday's New Mexico caucus to be the Democratic nominee for president.

The Tribune believes Obama has reawakened the imagination, work ethic and hope of Americans coast to coast and across the political spectrum — particularly among the nation's youngest voters who finally seem engaged in their country and their future.

In this dream, he wins the nomination of his party, prevails in November and leads America back to the progressive promised land.

There, a united America walks its democratic talk.

There, its Constitution — in particular its Bill of Rights — once again reigns supreme.

There, Americans stand shoulder to shoulder against any and all foes, not as conservatives or liberals, Republicans or Democrats, not as men or women, black, white, Hispanic or American Indian, but as Americans.

It's not that Obama's resilient rival, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, would not be a good president. She could be. Indeed, she has been tested and has dedicated virtually her entire adult life to American public service. But in the tumultuous life that is competitive politics, Obama offers true change — a different and unique vision with purpose, determination and outstretched hands.

From Iraq to health care, both candidates hold similar positions on major issues. But Obama has a far better chance of unifying the country by refusing to play the standard political game. Pick your metaphor, but he rises above ordinary politics, does an end run around the old guard and challenges every American

to step up and make a difference.

In spite of his relative youth and inexperience — which have drawn barbs from Clinton and her husband, Bill, the former president — Obama's candidacy most recently gained impressive traction among all categories of voters — women, men, black, white, brown, rich, poor, red, blue.

Yet there also have been incredible endorsements from some of the most potent and legendary Democratic voices of our time, including the brother and daughter of President Kennedy.

Like John F. Kennedy, who asked his "fellow Americans" to come to the aid of their country, Obama makes it plain that each of us can do something to make America great — together. In doing so, we can achieve America's global destiny as the mother of all democracies.

It has been a very long time since America had the leadership of someone who could disarm us of our pessimism, remind us of our roots and heritage and insist that we can solve America's enormous problems together. Instead of an impassable American mountain, Obama sees a team of American mountaineers plodding toward the summit.

There, law rules, not men.

There, every citizen is equally free and accountable.

There, opportunity, ability and hard work determine our individual and collective dreams.

Not since the 1960s have we been so touched by someone who espouses the hopes and strengths of a nation.

Some will find a reason not to vote for Obama. He is too young, too inexperienced. Too liberal. Too conservative. Too black. Too white. Too soft. Too religious. Too secular. Too naive. Too full of himself.

But we see in him a vibrant American leader who understands that leadership begins first and foremost with the people and a respect for — not manipulation of — them.

Obama seeks to leapfrog Washington's harsh political rhetoric and gridlock for all the right reasons. While some might ask why him, why now, we ask: Why not?

We enthusiastically endorse the presidential aspirations of Obama as the candidate in the New Mexico Democratic caucus most capable and willing to lead this country by challenging each and every one of its citizens to do what needs doing — achieve the American dream, rooted in those famous words: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Action Center

Obama Mobile

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Saturday (2008-02-02 15:35)

I have some video from the great but cold and rainy pre-canvass rally here in Sacramento that I'll upload after getting more footage from the John Kerry rally here this afternoon.

Here is a great panoramic shot of the rally in Boise, Idaho today that attracted a staggering 15,000 people. Click on the image for full resolution.



Video from the Boise rally

[EMBED]

Minnesota rally



Check out this new independent video of the song "Yes, We Can," featuring artists like Scarlett Johansson, Tatyana Ali, John Legend, Herbie Hancock, Kate Walsh, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Adam Rodriguez, Kelly Hu, Adam Rodriguez, Amber Valetta and Nick Cannon.

The song was written by will.i.am of the Black-Eyed Peas.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sacramento Rallies for Barack Obama (2008-02-03 07:52)

In Sacramento, California, on Feb. 2, 2008, we had a morning rally and canvass followed by an evening rally with Sen. John Kerry at California State University.

Despite the cold, rain and wind at the rally, people were fired up and ready to go turn out the vote on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

[EMBED]



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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Rallies on Sunday and Monday (2008-02-03 09:29)

Feb 3 GOTV Rally with Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, and Caroline Kennedy

in Los Angeles, CA

Feb 3 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Wilmington, DE

Feb 4 Stand for Change Rally with Michelle Obama

in Salt Lake City, UT

Feb 4 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Boston, MA

Feb 4 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in East Rutherford, NJ

Feb 4 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Boston, MA

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Last 72 Hours... (2008-02-03 09:35)

..until the polls close on Tuesday.

Political analysts, for example, have long realized the importance of late deciders, launching all- out GOTV (get-out-the-vote) drives in the last 72 hours before the election.

– Robert E. Denton, *The 1996 Presidential Campaign: A Communication Perspective* , 1998.

Over the last two decades, campaigns have spent enormous amounts of the campaign budget on get out the vote (GOTV) drives in the last 72 hours before the election. That strategy emerged from polls indicating that a large percentage of people decide who to vote for close to the time of the election.

– Alan B. Albarran and David H. Goff, *Understanding the Web: Social, Political and Economic Dimensions of the Internet* , 2000.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Star Ledger (NJ) endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-03 10:55)

X

"The inspired choice"

Sunday, February 03, 2008

After eight years of a flat-footed administration that booted just about every foreign and domestic issue, the nation needs a sure-footed president who can repair the considerable damage wreaked at home and abroad. America – and the world – are thirsting for someone who can be a true leader.

We firmly believe this is a moment in the nation's history unlike any other, one that requires a president who is not just competent but who can inspire. That is why we endorse Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for president.

We say that while acknowledging the exemplary qualities of Hillary Clinton, who has clearly demonstrated her mastery of policy details during her seven years in the U.S. Senate. Nor do we quibble with her stands on the issues, which to a great extent mirror Obama's.

Both favor a withdrawal of American forces from Iraq. Clinton, who has had a tough time explaining her initial vote in favor of the war, promises to begin bringing troops home within 60 days and hopes to have all troops out within a year.

Obama, who opposed the war from the beginning, says he wants just about all American servicemen and women out of Iraq within 16 months. Both say they'd make sure such a withdrawal did not endanger our embassy people or the thousands of Iraqis who have helped us during the war.

Both talk tough about Iran, not ruling out military action but allowing for direct diplomacy. On the economy, both would repeal the Bush tax cuts and both would extend help to those caught in the mortgage crisis. Clinton leans toward more government meddling with financial markets, while Obama favors a lighter government touch on the markets.

On health care, their differences are more pronounced. Clinton would require coverage, while Obama would do so for children but concentrate more on attacking what's wrong with the health care delivery system so coverage becomes more affordable.

To parse their policy differences is to smack into the mountain while stumbling over molehills. Democratic voters face a decision between a more known commodity, a careful pragmatist, and a less seasoned politician who has sounded a call to change unlike any heard in decades, one that has the ability to echo among young and old, black and white.

A Clinton presidency would not be a disaster. Far from it. But it would be a lot more of what we've had in the past.

An Obama presidency has the potential of restoring the world's faith in America. Some say faith is the problem, that voting for Obama requires a leap of faith that he indeed can deliver. We believe a vote for Obama is an affirmation of one's faith in an America that brings out the best in all of its people.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Endorse-O-Thon (2008-02-03 13:17)



There's a new group on Facebook called Endorse-O-Thon, that encourages MoveOn.org to endorse Barack Obama and let their people know about their choice.

The opinions of trusted friends and family are more persuasive to most voters than anything else. Millions of Americans who will vote this Tuesday in 22 states are still undecided or uncommitted—and you know some of them!

That's why we're launching a personal Endorse-O-Thon for Barack Obama. If you support Obama, can you send a short personal note to some of your friends and family explaining why? Click the link below to tell us how many people you'll email, to see some sample letters, to see how many others are doing it:

[http://pol.moveon.org/endo](http://pol.moveon.org/endorse-o-thon/?rc=fb.iendorse)

[rse-o-thon/?rc=fb.iendorse](http://pol.moveon.org/endorse-o-thon/?rc=fb.iendorse)

Our NEW goal is 75,000 person-to-person endorsements by Monday, Feb. 4th—if you email or send Facebook messages to 10 people, that brings us 10 notches closer to the goal.

If ever there were a time to tell your friends and family what you think about the presidential race, it's now, days before half the country votes!

Of course, you don't have to be a MoveOn.org member to pass the word on.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-02-03 14:50:00)

What do you think about the Hillary joke on Mahatma Gandhi running a gas station and then underscoring Martin Luther King Jr accomplishment who ran on Gandhi's principle and instead endorsing LBJ for civil right's.

First Lady Maria Shriver to Endorse Barack Obama (2008-02-03 16:01)

Maria Shriver to endorse Obama

Posted: 05:29 PM ET

LOS ANGELES (CNN) — Maria Shriver will endorse Democrat Barack Obama's White House bid today at a Los Angeles rally.

The California First Lady will make a surprise appearance on-stage at the Sunday event, backed by the candidate's wife Michelle Obama, talk show host Oprah Winfrey and Shriver's cousin Caroline Kennedy. Shriver is married to California's Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who endorsed GOP presidential hopeful John McCain earlier this week.

The former NBC journalist had said in the past she was drawn to Obama's message. Shriver is the niece of Sen. Ted Kennedy, and has been close to Oprah Winfrey since both got their starts in local TV in Baltimore. Both Winfrey and the Massachusetts senator have actively campaigned for Obama.

California's vote is this Tuesday, February 5. Most recent polls show Barack Obama and New York Sen. Hillary Clinton locked in a tight race in the Democratic primary in this delegate-rich state.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Alex, VA (2008-02-03 19:11:00)

Just yesterday I noted that people had very limited information on Sen. Barack Obama as we go into millions of people voting on the two candidates.

And then in the last two days we see three stories that illustrate the point very clearly about what Sen. Obama says about his views and record and what journalists find when they dig into the facts:

- 1) The New York Times on its front page explains how Sen. Barack Obama told voters he stood up to the nuclear power industry and how he passed a bill to require reports of any radioactive leaks after hearing from his constituents. But The Times discovers, after a lengthy examination, that the bill was watered down after meeting with Exelon, the company whose plants created the issue and whose key executives are big contributors and bundlers to his campaign. Answering written questions for the NY Times, the campaign, in the words of the paper, never "directly" explains why Sen. Obama would tell voters he passed a bill that in fact was not passed and did not become law.
- 2) The Chicago Tribune features a similar story on a different topic. While Sen. Obama on the stump tells people about the

plight of Maytag workers who lost their jobs, ("Obama's fundraising collides with his rhetoric") the Tribune documents that the union covering those workers believes they got no help from the Senator, who was again taking significant contributions and bundling from one of the company's directors and biggest investors.

3) And yesterday there was an AP story where Senator Obama told the voters of Idaho: "And then there are people who say, 'Well, he doesn't believe in the Second Amendment,' even though I come from a state – we've got a lot of hunters in downstate Illinois. And I have no intention of taking away folks' guns." But he didn't disclose to those voters, as the AP said that "he does support gun control and has a record of voting for it in the Illinois Senate. He backed limiting handgun purchases to one a month, but he made no attempts to ban them." When he originally ran for the state legislature 12 years ago, he filled out a questionnaire saying he "supported banning the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns." He gave the voters of Idaho no indication whatsoever of either his record in the State Senate or his prior views on the questionnaire.

Video: Maria Shriver endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-03 17:15)

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oprah Winfrey at LA Rally (2008-02-03 20:13)

Oprah voices her support for Barack Obama at today's rally in Los Angeles.

[EMBED]



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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Super Bowl Ad (2008-02-03 20:39)

Things are heating up here in California with two days left until the election. Today, Hillary Clinton's campaign called twice, one human caller in the morning and a robo-call in the evening. It was a little late since we've all voted by mail about a week ago.

The Obama campaign aired a television ad during the Super Bowl. Check out below.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Oregonian endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-03 22:23)

The Oregonian has endorsed Barack Obama as Democratic nominee.



Einstein said time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once. It's clear now why he never claimed much expertise in presidential politics.

Some of us hoped that the emergence of the first woman and the emergence of the first African American as leading candidates for president would come at slightly different times.

Maybe in a more just universe.

In ours, though, Democratic voters facing the crucial Super Tuesday primaries this week must choose between the greater of two goods, which isn't the way it usually happens. A system that all too often seems to produce mediocre candidates and visionless campaigns ground out a diamond this time.

There are few, if any, limits to what a candidate will do to woo the electorate, of course, and the night is still young; but the debates in both parties have been substantive. Even if you count the brief distraction offered by a certain former president, this election year has been light on the made-up service records, swift boaters and other subterranean smear mongers. It's too much to hope that they'll stay in their mothers' basements for the duration, but so far, so good.

This is the week when the primary campaigns shed the dominance of local quirks, customs and weather and switch to mass-market politics. Considering that Oregon's primary is nearly four months away, this seemed the best time to declare our own preferences.

THE DEMOCRATS: OBAMA

Hillary Clinton's campaign benefits by formulating the race with Barack Obama as a contest between similar candidates who differ in experience.

If this were a normal year and Barack Obama were a normal candidate, that might be true. But millions of Americans have responded to the broad themes of Obama's campaign. They hunger for real political change, and they see Obama as the candidate who can deliver it. With that ability to get people to listen to his message, Obama can be a transformational president.

On the issues, Obama and Clinton are hard to distinguish from each other. Obama opposed the Iraq war from the beginning, for example, and Clinton came to that view over time. As president, though, each would put the United States in pretty much the same place. Health care? Clinton understands the issue deeply and would push a promising agenda. But Obama's plan resembles Clinton's – and in the contentious arena where this will be decided, nobody's plan will come out the way it went in.

In the nonissue part of the campaign, we happen to think that Sen. Clinton gets a great deal of undeserved criticism over the fact that she stood by her husband during his self-inflicted travails. Being a faithful spouse is a virtue. So is forgiveness. Clinton is living proof that sex discrimination and misogyny are alive and well in America, and she has been confronted daily by both, as are most women. These are not arguments for her candidacy, but they should not be arguments against it, either.

As for Obama, the case for his candidacy seems to grow stronger every day. It seems to us that his approach to politics and, especially, leadership offers the cleanest and clearest break from the direction that the Bush presidency took the United States.

Obama's political gift is often described as charisma, but there is a better word for it: authenticity. Americans yearn for it in their leaders and rarely find it. Obama has it, and because of that, he displays the potential to restore Americans' faith in their own national ideals and perhaps even renew the belief that service to one's fellow citizens is a high calling, not a reward for political support.

The mere election of Obama would advance the crumbling credibility of and restore international respect

for the United States in the wider world, where symbolism is a potent force.

Obama has not yet been tempered in the fires of world conflict or tested in the snares and traps of Washington insider politics. But as any number of former presidents tell us: Everyone's an amateur when they first set foot in the Oval Office.

What we see in Obama is strength and personal integrity to overcome these obstacles and others. What we see in him is not just the ability to lead a government, but the ability to lead a nation.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Joan Baez Endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-04 06:44)

60s icon Joan Baez endorsed Barack Obama yesterday in the San Francisco Chronicle.

The 60s movement brought about a revolution in civil, women's, gay, environmental and other rights. Without that movement, there would still be segregation in the South and back alley abortions, and no Miranda rights, no EPA, no Clean Air/Water Act.

Barack Obama is starting a new movement to take back the government for the people from corporations and lobbyists. An empowered people can achieve universal health care, they can end the war in Iraq, and they can make the government express the will of the people. Let's make tis happen by getting out the vote for Barack on Feb. 5 and beyond.

Editor - I have attempted throughout my life to give a voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless, encouragement to the discouraged, and options to the cynical and complacent. From Northern Ireland to Sarajevo to Latin America, I have sung and marched, engaged in civil disobedience, visited war zones, and broken bread with those who had little bread to break.

Through all those years, I chose not to engage in party politics. Though I was asked many times to endorse candidates at every level, I was never comfortable doing so. At this time, however, changing that posture feels like the responsible thing to do. If anyone can navigate the contaminated waters of Washington, lift up the poor, and appeal to the rich to share their wealth, it is Sen. Barack Obama. If anyone can bring light to the darkened corners of this nation and restore our positive influence in world affairs, it is Barack Obama. If anyone can begin the process of healing and bring unity to a country that has been divided for too long, it is Barack Obama. It is time to begin a new journey.

JOAN BAEZ

Menlo Park

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Tufts Daily Endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-04 07:21)

The Tufts Daily, the campus newspaper of Tufts University, endorsed Barack Obama today.

Obama would unify a divided country

As the presidential election of 2008 draws near, we are standing at an extraordinary moment in American history. In the Democratic primary, the party will make history no matter which candidate represents it in the fall.

As voters, we may choose a divisive but battle-tested senator who will continue the 50-percent-plus-one political strategy and make hard-won incrementalism the political norm. Or we can select a transformative leader who stands for bold political realignment - a man who is respected by people of all political stripes even if they do not agree with all of his views.

Given this fundamental choice, the Daily offers its endorsement of Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Our decision reflects our own basic understanding of American governance and the vision that we have for the American presidency.

Senator Hillary Clinton has made much of her experience in public service. As First Lady, she crafted America's first universal healthcare proposal and, as she says, "I have the scars to prove it." She has served in the Senate for seven years and has been a hard worker and a conscientious legislator. Certainly, experience is important - but the type of experience is even more significant.

As the son of an absent black farmer from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, Obama was forced to struggle with his own identity. He saw the affluent corridors of Harvard Law School (where he excelled as the first black editor of the prestigious Law Review) and the poverty-stricken South Side of Chicago, where he went to work in community organizing and made thousands of people believe that their voices would be heard again. He taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago and reached across the political aisle in the Illinois State Senate to craft meaningful legislation.

In October 2002, Senator Clinton, who had all the intelligence reports at her disposal, voted to give the president the authority to go to war. She, along with 28 other Democrats and 48 Republicans, either exercised her best judgment or fell victim to the call of political expediency.

In Illinois, however, then-State Senator Obama eloquently and intelligently made the case against war. Experience is important, but when the advisors and cabinet members have left the room and the president stands alone in the Oval Office, it will be his judgment that we must believe in most.

From the Law Review to the Illinois Senate to the streets of this nation, Obama has been unyielding in his belief that Americans can come together to create a better nation - that they should not feel powerless in the face of the federal government. He has been honest about his strengths and his weaknesses in a way that those of us who remember Bill Clinton's equivocations about marijuana and George W. Bush's obfuscations concerning cocaine never believed we would hear from an elected official.

We have great respect for the senator from New York - she has been a pragmatic and thoughtful voice in the U.S. Senate - but the real difficulty in politics is finding the right leader for the moment. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a great president because he had the strength to face down the Great Depression and to unite the country in war and in peace. Abraham Lincoln, despite his lack of a national résumé, provided bold and courageous leadership during the most powerful schism in American history. John F. Kennedy was brought to the forefront as the world stood on the brink of nuclear war, and the young president pulled us back from the edge and strengthened our resolve to be the kind of nation for which our founding fathers fought.

A leader can only be truly great if he or she understands the exceptionality of the moment. We need a president who can heal this nation and bring us together after the backbiting and severe polarization of the last twenty years. The American people are tired of pessimism, tired of lies and equivocations, tired, as Obama said in 2004, of the pundits who like to slice and dice our country into red states and blue states - and tired of being angry.

Obama's presidency will not be perfect, and it would be foolish to expect the realization of a true Camelot on the Potomac. There will be difficult times in the years ahead.

But we believe that Barack Obama is the person most able to unite the country not just against a common enemy, but in the service of a common purpose. That is why we offer Obama our enthusiastic endorsement for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



LA Rally (Full video) (2008-02-04 23:12)

Check out the full video of the LA rally.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Our Moment is Now (2008-02-04 23:17)



Action Center
Obama Mobile



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Find Your Polling Place! (2008-02-05 06:24)

From barackobama.com:

Find Your Polling Place!

by Sam Graham-Felsen, Monday, February 04, 2008 at 09:00 PM

✖ Today, polling places are opening in 15 states across the country, while residents of 7 additional states will gather tomorrow evening to caucus.

In order to help, we've put together Caucus Look-Up tolls for all the caucus states, as well as information on polling places for all primary states.

Find your polling place – then invite your friends and family to look up their polling places and vote for Barack this Tuesday, February 5th!

Alabama (polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Alaska (arrive at 5:30 p.m. - doors close at 6:00 p.m.)

Arizona (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Arkansas (polls open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

California (polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Colorado (arrive at 6:30 p.m. - doors close at 7:00 p.m.)

Connecticut (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Delaware (polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Georgia (polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

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Illinois (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Kansas (arrive at 6:00 p.m. - doors close at 7:00 p.m.)

Massachusetts (polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Minnesota (cast your vote between 6:30 p.m. and 7:59 p.m.)

Missouri (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

New Jersey (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

New Mexico (caucus sites open from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.)

New York (polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

North Dakota (caucus sites are open from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Oklahoma (polls open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.)

Tennessee (polls open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Utah (polls open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Gary (2008-02-05 14:05:00)

Before voting guys, I found this beautiful tribute to Barack and everything American. I believe the song was professionally written and recorded. Check it out. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pC8cAyOAr_Y

Anonymous (2008-02-05 16:36:00)

I am a UTSA students, and the main website is running an opinion poll that has been bombed by Clinton and McCain supporters, so I thought I would pass it on. The link ... <http://www.utsa.edu/today/index.cfm>

Plouffe: Obama wins by gaining more states and more delegates (2008-02-06 07:24)

Here is the note released by Obama campaign manager David Plouffe as posted by Sam Graham-Felsen on the official blog:

Plouffe: Obama wins Super Tuesday by winning more states and more delegates

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Wednesday, February 06, 2008 at 04:26 AM

Campaign Manager David Plouffe...

By winning a majority of delegates and a majority of the states, Barack Obama won an important Super Tuesday victory over Senator Clinton in the closest thing we have to a national primary. From Colorado and Utah in the west to Georgia and Alabama in the south to Senator Clinton's backyard in Connecticut, Obama showed that he can win the support of Americans of every race, gender, and political party in every region of the country. That's why he's on track to win Democratic nomination, and that's why he's the best candidate to defeat John McCain in November.

The next contests are right around the corner on Feb. 9, this Saturday, and I should say very cautiously that Barack Obama appears strong overall in the states and territory involved: Washington (97 delegates), Louisiana (67 delegates), Nebraska (31 delegates) and the Virgin Islands (9 delegates).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-02-06 08:33:00)

obama is all hype i hope he doesnt win and people voting for him dont by into the hype of change because everyone wants change and i dont believe he can get things done and if any of you believe that being able to speak well translates into getting things done then all of you obama supporters now will regret it 4 year later when nothing gets done and we are in worse shape then we are now but have a great speaker that people like.

Anonymous (2008-02-07 18:22:00)

Obama may have won more states but he didn't win more delegates, not if you ask the DNC and Clinton has more superdelegates. If Obama thinks that the people that voted for him will not vote for Clinton he needs to think again because they will. I

know atleast 100 people that will not vote for him if he is the nominee, and you can check the blogs the ones that voted for Clinton said that if Obama gets the nominee they will not vote or vote republican.

(2008-02-06 07:24)

Here is the note released by Obama campaign manager David Plouffe as posted by Sam Graham-Felsen on the official blog:

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by Sam Graham-Felsen Wednesday, February 06, 2008 at 04:26 AM
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More on upcoming contests (2008-02-06 07:32)

The month of February will be packed with election days leading up to a big showdown on March 4 that could potentially decide the nomination.

Here are the contests after Feb. 9, when four states will vote:

Feb 10 Maine (D) 34 delegates at stake

Feb 12 District of Columbia 37 delegates at stake

Feb 12 Maryland 99 delegates at stake

Feb 12 Virginia 103 delegates at stake

Feb 19 Hawaii (D) 29 delegates at stake

Feb 19 Wisconsin 92 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Ohio 161 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Rhode Island 32 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Texas 228 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Vermont 23 delegates at stake

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

jennifer (2008-02-09 23:20:00)

After the Chesapeake Democratic primaries, Obama's campaign should move to Texas and give away some of the \$7 million dollars to buy off the Clinton supporters because he NEEDS Texas if he is going to move on to the general election.

More on upcoming contests (2008-02-06 07:32)

The month of February will be packed with primaries and caucuses leading up to a big showdown on March 4 that could really decide the nomination.

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Mar 4 Ohio 161 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Rhode Island 32 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Texas 228 delegates at stake

Mar 4 Vermont

(2008-02-06 08:08)

President Democratic - District 1 100. % (790 of 790) precincts
reporting as of Feb 6, 2008, at 6:54 a.m.

County Returns Other Contests

Districtwide Results

Previous District Select District Next District

Candidate Votes Percent

Joe Biden (Dem) 386 0.3 % ✕ ✕

Dennis Kucinich (Dem) 1,103 1.2 % ✕ ✕

Barack Obama (Dem) 45,599 46.1 % ✕ ✕

Bill Richardson (Dem) 478 0.4 % ✕ ✕
Hillary Clinton (Dem) 45,149 45.7 % ✕ ✕
Chris Dodd (Dem) 97 0.0 % ✕ ✕
John Edwards (Dem) 5,959 6.1 % ✕ ✕
Mike Gravel (Dem) 214 0.2 % ✕ ✕

Washington SEIU endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-06 15:58)

From the Seattle Times:

OLYMPIA — Sen. Barack Obama's campaign announced today it has been endorsed by the state's largest labor group — the Service Employee's International Union (SEIU).

The endorsement could be a big boost for Obama as he heads into the Democratic Party's precinct caucuses on Saturday.

Congressman Adam Smith of Tacoma, Obama's state chairman, announced the endorsement this afternoon in a conference call with reporters.

"Nobody makes a bigger difference in campaigns in this state than SEIU," Smith said.

The union, which has about 100,000 members statewide, had previously endorsed former Sen. John Edwards. But after a dismal showing in the early contests, Edwards dropped out of the race last week.

Leaders from the SEIU's five major locals in Washington met Tuesday to decide whether to throw its support to Obama or his Democratic rival, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"It ended up being a unanimous decision by all of our locals," said Adam Glickman, spokesman for SEIU Local 775. "Obviously, there are two very strong candidates, both of whom are vast improvements over the current office holder."

Glickman said the union would be making tens of thousands of calls to its members over the next three days to urge support for Obama. He said the calls also are intended to make sure members understand that — in order to have a say in choosing Democratic delegates — they have to participate in the caucuses.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

(2008-02-06 20:50)

"Almost two years ago, I endorsed John Edwards Business-Should-Not-Fear-Edwards Jan-08 , before any Democratic candidates declared their candidacy." said Congresswoman Johnson. "I remained loyal to that commitment until he left the race."

It seems the Texas Democrat was swayed by the enthusiasm Senator Obama has brought to the race. "Senator Obama's campaign has generated interest in young Americans who have never before been involved in politics," she said. "American needs these young people not only for their vote in this election, but for their continued participation in the future of our country."

Sacramento comes through for Barack Obama (2008-02-06 21:36)

I remember when Sacramento for Obama started in February of 2007 shortly after Barack Obama announced his candidacy.

They've been going strong ever since, and yesterday despite the loss in California, Sacramento came through for Sen. Obama.

In Sacramento County, with all precincts reporting, Barack Obama took 48 % of the vote compared to Hillary Clinton's 46.3 %.

The city of Sacramento, the state capital, falls with Doris Matsui's 5th Congressional District, and although the Congresswoman endorsed Hillary, Obama won the 5th with 50.1 % compared to Clinton's 44.9 %.

The 5th was one of only four congressional districts that gave extra delegates to Sen. Obama the other's being Rep. Barbara Lee's 9th CD in Oakland, the 33rd CD in Culver City (Metro LA) and the 35th CD in Inglewood.

Also, neighboring Yolo County where we cooperated especially with University of California, Davis students saw an Obama victory at 48.2 % to 45.9 %.

Good job, Sacramento!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Anonymous (2008-02-08 20:52:00)

if Obama gets the nominee I and 100 More are either not going to vote or vote republican

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire endorses Obama (2008-02-08 10:24)

Breaking: Washington Governor Chris Gregoire endorses Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Friday, February 08, 2008 at 08:16 AM

Breaking from the AP...

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire endorsed Barack Obama for president Friday, providing a last-minute lift to the Illinois senator on the eve of the state's hotly contested Democratic caucuses.

Gregoire, announcing her choice in an interview with The Associated Press, said that taking sides in the close contest for the Democratic nomination was tough, given her great admiration for Sen. Hillary Clinton.

But she said Obama is a charismatic and skilled leader who can bring the country together, help solve nagging problems, and restore the country's image abroad.

Gregoire planned to join Obama in a major campaign rally at Seattle's KeyArena on Friday....

Gregoire was the state's first female attorney general and is only the second woman governor in Washington since statehood. Washington is the only state with a female governor and both U.S. senators.

But Obama is quite popular in the Democratic strongholds of Seattle and other urban areas, and the Obama endorsement could help centrist Gregoire there.

"Lots of people said, 'Just stay out of it,'" said Gregoire, who faces a potentially tough re-election campaign of her own this fall.

"But all of my friends are going to caucus on Saturday and will be asked to make up their mind, so why shouldn't I? It was time for me to make up my mind."

Fellow Govs. Janet Napolitano of Arizona and Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas also have endorsed Obama.

...

"I gave it a lot of thought and it was a very difficult decision because I think Democrats and the nation are very blessed to have two outstanding candidates, both of whom would make a great president.

"Back when I was 18 years old, if anyone had told me in my lifetime we would have a choice between the first woman president and the first African American, I would have laughed out loud," she said. "They are both breaking the glass ceiling if you will."

Gregoire said Obama brings hope and inspiration to young and old alike.

"He is leading us toward a positive feeling of hope in our country and I love seeing that happen," she said. "I believe the nation faces significant challenges domestically and internationally and Obama is the person who has the ability to reach across artificial divides and move our national forward. Barack is that kind of leader."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-02-08 10:45:00)

I wouldn't vote for that

"Moon Cricket" if the BOMB were to be dropped on my home.....

Can you even fathom what damage that guy can do in 4 years.....

The guy in office did enough to screw us all now all you boneheads want to vote for the same religion that wants to wipe us out.

Time for a dictator.....

Anonymous (2008-02-08 17:53:00)

Why doesnt he vote on key issues?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywhZFjb_Inq

Anonymous (2008-02-09 22:40:00)

I've voted democrat ever since I could vote, But if Obama wins the democratic nomination I will be voting republican be it McCain or Huckabee. Obama has his own private agenda I feel. Many of my neighbors feel the same as I do and have mentioned they will vote republican as well. Come election time many of us who voted for Hillary will be switching sides. Obama wins the democratic nomination our next president will be REPUBLICAN !

Barack Obama sweeps Saturday contests (2008-02-10 09:23)

Haven't updated in the last few days because both my computer and myself were hit by viruses at the wrong time. Of course, most of you already know that Barack Obama won handily in Saturday's election in Louisiana, Nebraska, Washington and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Today, there is a contest in Maine, and then two days from Chesapeake Tuesday when Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC will choose their nominee.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

NBC projects an Obama victory in Maine (2008-02-10 17:43)

NBC has called the race in Maine for Barack Obama giving him five straight victories.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Feb 12: Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. Voting Info (2008-02-11 13:51)

From barackobama.com :

Feb 12: Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. Voting Info

by Christopher Hass

Monday, February 11, 2008 at 11:23 AM

On Tuesday, voters in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia will have their chance to go to the polls and vote for change. If you are a resident of any of these three states, you can use the links below to find out when, where and how to vote for Barack Obama:

District of Columbia

- Polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Open to all registered Democrats
- Find your polling location
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the D.C. Primary

Maryland

- Polls open from to 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Open to all registered Democrats
- Find your polling location

- [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Maryland Primary](#)

Virginia

- [Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM](#)
- [Open Primary - All registered Democrats, Republicans and Independents can participate](#)
- [Find your polling location](#)
- [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Virginia Primary](#)

Barack Obama during a rally in Virginia.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



San Antonio Rep. Charlie Gonzalez endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-11 16:56)

Texas Rep. Charlie Gonzalez has endorsed Barack Obama today.

Congressman Gonzalez endorses Sen. Obama by Gary Martin, S.A. Express-News



WASHINGTON – Illinois Sen. Barack Obama picked up a key endorsement Monday from Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, who said he backs the Illinois senator for the Democratic nomination for president. "Senator Obama brings all these new fresh faces," Gonzalez told the San Antonio Express-News. "He has a wider audience. He has the greater potential to engage a greater number of people."

The endorsement by Gonzalez comes one day after Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., announced a presidential campaign swing through South Texas that will include San Antonio , Corpus Christi and McAllen. Both campaigns are ramping up their efforts in Texas in advance of the March 4 primary. There are 228 Democratic delegates at stake in Texas .

Hispanics are expected to make up roughly 25 percent of the Democratic primary vote in Texas , prompting Clinton and Obama to establish campaign offices in San Antonio, El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley. Clinton has received the endorsement of former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, who served as housing secretary under President Bill Clinton. Others endorsing Sen. Clinton include Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, and Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, D-Mercedes.

Gonzalez, who is a Super Delegate to the Democratic convention – one of roughly 800 officeholders and party leaders with a vote in the nominating process – had endorsed John Edwards, the 2004 Democratic vice presidential nominee, until he dropped out of the presidential race.

Since then, Gonzalez said he has received a flurry of telephone calls from Clinton and Obama supporters. "I truly believe that Senator Hillary Clinton or Senator Barack Obama will prevail in November," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview. "I just want to insure that we have our strongest candidate, which is Obama."

Gonzalez said both Democratic candidates share similar positions on health care and regaining the moral high ground in the war on terror. He said Obama, though, has more appeal with independent voters, an important bloc in November.

"He's got a greater breadth of influence and appeal," Gonzalez said. "It gives us a tremendous advantage over the opposition."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-02-11 18:33:00)

This is a big deal, especially in Texas where the Latino vote will be so powerful. Go Obama!

<http://www.cafepress.com/obamanos>

Anonymous (2008-02-13 21:10:00)

Barack is threatening to shut down the space program.

He says he never supported the war. Well that is easy to do when you are not in the Senate. Yet he voted for every bill to support the war since he has been office.

His health care plan mimicks Hillary's. Did he cut and paste?

This guy is nothing but a smooth talker.

(2008-02-11 16:56)

by Gary Martin, S.A. Express-News

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"He's got a greater breadth of influence and appeal," Gonzalez said. "It gives us a tremendous advantage over the opposition."

Barack with DC voters (2008-02-12 14:19)

Check out the YouTube video of Barack Obama talking with DC voters. Virginia, Maryland and DC are voting in primaries today.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Nate (2008-02-12 19:03:00)
Mayor Fenty is so awesome.

CNN: Barack Obama wins Virginia (2008-02-12 17:01)

CNN has just projected that Barack Obama will win the Virginia primary. The margins are important since none of the Democratic contests are winner-take-all.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wisconsin rallies tomorrow (2008-02-14 12:47)

From barackobama.com :

Wisconsin rallies tomorrow

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 11:14 AM

Happy Valentines Day everyone... If you're in Wisconsin, there are three rallies tomorrow... Barack Obama in Green Bay, WI

Join Barack Obama for a special Stand for Change Rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin on Friday, February 15th.

Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Kress Events Center

2420 Nicolet Drive

Green Bay, WI

Friday, February 15, 2008

Doors Open: 3:00 p.m.

Program Begins: 5:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public; however, space is limited, and tickets are required. Due to overwhelming demand tickets are no longer available online. Tickets are available at the locations listed below.

For security reasons, do not bring bags and please limit personal items. No signs or banners permitted.

Obama for America Green Bay Office

1148 East Main Street

Green Bay, WI

9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

319-541-9969

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Kress Center

2420 Nicolet Drive

Green Bay, WI 54311

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Barack Obama in Oshkosh, WI

Join Barack Obama for a special Stand for Change Rally in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on Friday, February 15th.

Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Kolf Sports Center Fieldhouse

High Avenue on the UW-Oshkosh Campus

Oshkosh, WI

Friday, February 15, 2008

Doors Open: 12:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged.

For security reasons, do not bring bags. No signs or banners permitted.

Barack Obama in Milwaukee, WI

Join Barack Obama for a special Stand for Change Rally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Friday, February 15th.

Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

Midwest Airlines Center
Exhibit Hall A
400 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI

Friday, February 15, 2008

Doors Open: 8:30 a.m.

Program Begins: 10:30 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public; however, space is limited, and tickets are required. Please bring a photo ID.

For security reasons, do not bring bags. Please limit personal items. No signs or banners are permitted.

Check out WI.BarackObama.com for more...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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United Food and Commercial Workers endorse Barack Obama (2008-02-14 16:31)



MILWAUKEE, Wis. (AP) – Sen. Barack Obama has won the backing of the United Food and Commercial Workers, a politically active union with significant membership in the upcoming Democratic battlegrounds.

The 1.3-million member UFCW gives Obama an organizational boost in vital upcoming contests, with 69,000 members in the Buckeye state and another 26,000 in Texas. The two states have a large number of delegates and are where Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton hopes to stop Obama's winning streak on March 4.

The food workers also have 19,000 members in Wisconsin, which holds a primary Tuesday.

The union is made up of supermarket workers and meatpackers, with 40 percent of the membership under 30 years old. Obama has been doing especially well among young voters.

"Senator Obama's message of changing hope into reality has inspired our members, particularly our young members, across the country," Food Workers President Joe Hansen said in a statement in which he also lauded Clinton's tireless efforts on behalf of workers.

"While both Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have a vision to change America, we believe that Senator Obama is the best candidate to build a movement to unite our country that will deliver the type of change that is needed for good jobs, affordable health care, retirement security and worker safety," he said. He called Obama "the candidate of the American dream."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-02-15 13:40:00)

Obama - please remind voters that it was a Clinton who pushed for Free Trade & that is what started US jobs leaving this country.

Video: Barack Obama in Wisconsin (2008-02-15 18:16)

Barack Obama campaigns in Oshkosh and Milwaukee ahead of next Tuesday's contests in Hawai'i and Wisconsin.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Houston Chronicle endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-16 11:58)

The Houston Chronicle endorsed Barack Obama today for Democrats.



Feb. 16, 2008, 2:09AM

For Obama

The Chronicle endorses the senator from Illinois for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Copyright 2008 Houston Chronicle

The presidency of the United States is a powerful bully pulpit. The occupant of the White House must not only issue orders, but also inspire and advocate for all Americans.

Of the two finalists for the Democratic presidential nomination, the Chronicle believes Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois is best-qualified by life experience, skill and temperament to be the standard bearer for his party. In a conference call, Obama told the Chronicle editorial board that "more than any other candidate, I can bridge some of the partisan as well as racial and religious divides that have developed in this country that prevent us from getting things done."

Those who have viewed the numerous campaign debates know there's not much to separate Obama from his opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York. Either could ably represent the Democratic Party. Both candidates favor ending the war in Iraq by withdrawing combat troops and initiating regional negotiations to stabilize the country. Both would press for dramatic strides toward providing all Americans with health insurance.

Both support a cap and trade system to begin reducing America's carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. Each promises to initiate multibillion-dollar efforts to promote conversion of the economy to clean energy technologies. They favor securing our borders, initiating comprehensive immigration

reform and creating a path to earned legal status for those already here who are working and contributing to their communities.

However, there is a decisive difference. Obama vows to reach out to independents and Republicans with a message of inclusion and cooperation. He offers a historic opportunity to elevate national political dialogue to a higher ground. Those who insist on vitriol and obstructionism would be marginalized.

On several issues vital to Houstonians, Obama's positions need elaboration. He recognizes the need to maintain U.S. pre-eminence in space but said he wanted to study the costs and benefits of human space exploration — an exercise that should convince him of the space program's long history of indispensable contributions.

Obama said he did not expect the leaders of the energy sector to vote for him. He needs to realize that the energy sector must be a large part of a cooperative effort to develop alternative fuels and avoid an energy crunch.

The 46-year-old Obama has expanded his base of support, winning new legions of supporters. The more people see and hear him, the more they like him. As the Hawaiian-born son of a Muslim Kenyan father and an Anglo Midwesterner, the devoutly Christian Obama transcends race and religion. His life has been one of involvement with disadvantaged Chicago residents, excellence at Harvard Law School and eight years as an Illinois state senator. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, only the third African-American to serve there since Reconstruction.

Obama is both the epitome of the American Dream and well-positioned to reach out to an international community alienated by recent U.S. go-it-alone policies.

The passion and excitement that Obama has brought to the race can only stimulate more citizens to participate in the electoral process. The Chronicle urges Texas Democrats to cast what could be decisive ballots for his presidential nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-02-16 17:09:00)

I watched mrs obama give a very good speech online and i was blown away until i really got to thinking about it. she brings up that she wants to know what the candidates are doing when nobody was watching. well after careful study i see that the obamas attend a church that is 100 % committed to AFRICA. Not God or Country. Most have probably never been to Africa at his church.

Obama would tell us anything to win the nomination but he is not for all people and races or he would not have gone to a strictly african church for the last 20 years!

Travis Kiefer (2008-02-17 04:30:00)

Hello there! My name is Travis and I am a student at Stanford University. Because I believe Barack is the best candidate with the potential to revolutionize politics, I created a website - <http://www.digobama.com> - so people like you can submit your favorite articles, videos and podcasts about Barack and vote on them. This site is extremely new (created Monday, February 13th) and is already gaining momentum in spreading Barack's message. There are already 43 users, 99 articles, 329 votes, and over 500 unique visitors on Saturday! As the webmaster of a Barack Obama related website, I would like to invite you to become a member and then submit your stories. Thank you and Yes We Can make a difference!!!

The Honolulu Advertiser endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-17 09:33)

The Honolulu Advertiser endorsed Barack Obama today.



Democrats need Barack Obama's vision, leadership

Conventional wisdom suggests that once Democrats pick their nominee, it will be easy for the party to rally behind the winner against the presumptive GOP presidential candidate, John McCain. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, both strong candidates, aren't far apart on key national issues, and Democrats have eight years of deprivation uniting them in their zeal to reclaim the White House.

But while they might find the November decision easy, many of the party faithful are struggling over the more immediate choice: Which U.S. senator should become the Democratic standard-bearer?

For tomorrow's party caucus, when Hawai'i Democrats have a rare chance to influence the final outcome of the primary-election campaign, The Honolulu Advertiser endorses Barack Obama, recognizing his ideas and policies as being most closely aligned with the needs of the country.

Many others who've made that selection argue that the junior U.S. senator from Illinois stands a better chance of beating the more seasoned McCain. That's because Clinton, rightly or wrongly, accrued many detractors during her years as first lady — critics may feel comfortable enough with the socially moderate McCain to vote with the GOP.

But that's just a tactical analysis. It misses the more substantive points of Obama's very real credentials and, in particular, the power of his presidential platform.

- Foreign policy: Obama argues forcefully that the U.S. must move decisively "to lead the world by deed and by example." Specifically, Obama has grasped the reality that the Iraq war must be brought to a responsible end through a phased withdrawal of troops. Attention must be refocused on the Middle East more broadly, he said, with greater emphasis placed on countering terrorist cells in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"Tough-minded diplomacy, backed by the whole range of instruments of American power — political, economic and military — could bring success even when dealing with long-standing adversaries such as Iran and Syria," Obama wrote in the journal *Foreign Affairs*.

On a more global scale, Obama believes the U.S. must lead an international effort to secure nuclear weapons and material at sites within four years. The clear objective is to reduce a potent threat from terrorist organizations.

Obama also takes a more nuanced approach toward relations with Asia. Regarding China, for example, he correctly focuses on building "a relationship that broadens cooperation while strengthening our ability to compete."

- Economy: Obama proposes a more balanced tax policy that directs relief back toward the middle class, and adjustment in U.S. trade policy that would bolster the stability of the American job market. His ideas on job creation in the renewable energy sector links two critical aims of a solid domestic program: greater energy self-sufficiency and workforce development.

- Healthcare: Obama has proposed a plan that enables choice for those currently covered by health insurance but extends affordable enrollment opportunities to those who have no coverage.

The bottom line: Everyone will have access to health insurance; income will no longer be the insurmountable barrier it is today.

After reviewing his ideas, the careful voter should consider Obama's experience. Born and raised in Hawai'i, Obama later settled in Chicago and became a community organizer with a church-based group, working to better living conditions in poor, high-crime neighborhoods. Later, with a Harvard law degree

in hand, he practiced as a civil rights attorney and teacher.

During eight years in the Illinois state legislature he supported increased funding for healthcare and education; he also helped write bills to publicly finance judicial campaigns and create a state earned-income tax credit.

That work, and his undeniable personal charisma, helped propel him into the U.S. Senate, where he has managed to secure additional funding for veterans' medical care and energy development in his home state. He opposed the corporate-written Central American Free Trade Agreement, and he led the charge among those challenging the Bush administration's failure to protect New Orleans.

There is no single candidate who can possess all the attributes needed to guide a president through the impossibly complex challenges of that job. The central question, rather, is which candidate possesses the qualities that we need most?

The U.S. is a nation at war and in economic distress. The road back will be a long one, the journey likely to span more than one presidential tenure. The capacity for hope and the willingness to change, both rallying cries of the Obama campaign, are elements critical to that journey.

The Democrats should recognize that the ability to inspire and to persuade others to follow is no trivial thing, no superficiality.

It is, in fact, the critical aspect of leadership required at times like these, when only a more unified nation can find its way through the difficulties ahead.

The party needs to acknowledge the clarion call that's resonated through the past weeks of the presidential campaign. It needs Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-02-18 18:40:00)

Hey, it's off-topic, but I came upon this site at <http://obamawill.com> and it's wonderful and funny. And...my wife, a Clinton supporter, read it and said it's the first thing she's seen that inclines her towards Obama. Go figure.

Michelle Obama in Newsweek (2008-02-17 20:12)

From barackobama.com :

Michelle Obama in Newsweek

by Sarah Ramey Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 04:30 PM

Newsweek magazine is featuring Michelle Obama this week, in a great cover story entitled, "Barack's Rock."



Here's the opening, which sounds about right: "She's the one who keeps him real, the one who makes sure running for leader of the free world doesn't go to his head. Michelle's story."

Michelle Obama has been an absolute inspiration to women and men alike – drawing diverse crowds of over 1,000 people even when she campaigns on her own. This week's article in Newsweek is a must-read for everyone out there who loves Michelle (which is to say, everyone.) Here are some excerpts, and be sure to pick up a copy of your own:



Michelle Obama was never much interested in calling attention to herself. As an undergrad at Princeton in the 1980s, she was interested in social change, but didn't run for student government. Instead, she spent her free time running a literacy program for kids from the local neighborhoods. At Harvard Law, she took part in demonstrations demanding more minority students and professors. Yet unlike another more prominent Harvard Law student who would later take up the cause, she was not one to hold forth with high-flown oratory about the need for diversity. "When [Barack Obama] spoke, people got quiet and listened," recalls Prof. Randall Kennedy. "Michelle had a more modest, quieter, lower profile." Barack won election as president of the Law Review. Michelle put her energy into a less glamorous pursuit: recruiting black undergrads to Harvard Law from other schools. For her, politics wasn't so much about being inspirational as it was being practical—about getting something specific done, says Charles Ogletree, one of her professors. "She was not trying to get ahead."

She no longer has the luxury of keeping a low profile. Now a very public figure, Michelle has accepted the role of aspiring First Lady and the sometimes uncomfortable scrutiny that comes with it. On the campaign trail, she is sometimes slated as the opening act, introducing Barack to the audience. Direct and plain-spoken, with an edgy sense of humor uncommon in a political spouse, she complements her husband's more grandiose style...She wants to change the world, but she also wants to win this thing now that they're so deeply invested. If his

loftiness can set him apart from the crowd, her bluntness draws them in...

From the beginning of the campaign, Michelle made it clear to her husband that she would give the effort her all ("We need to be in there now, while we're still fresh and open and fearless and bold," she told *Vanity Fair* last December), but not at the expense of family life.

...At the meetings, Axelrod and the other aides addressed each of Michelle's questions. "Suffusing these discussions was, if we did it, she and he both wanted to make sure it was consistent with who he is and what he thinks, and wouldn't distort that," says Axelrod. She has expressed fears that the nastiness of presidential politics could wind up sucking the idealism out of her husband, leaving him just another soulless, cynical Washington pol. "Michelle has always been in the camp of, 'Let's not forget what we're fighting for,'" Axelrod says. After the meetings, Michelle gave Barack her blessing.

...Part of Michelle Obama's appeal—she routinely draws audiences of 1,000-plus supporters even when she's campaigning on her own—is that she comes across as so normal despite the withering glare of a national campaign. As a political spouse, she is somewhat unusual. She isn't the traditional Stepford booster, smiling vacantly at her husband and sticking to a script of carefully vetted blandishments. Nor is she a surrogate campaign manager, ordering the staff around and micromanaging the candidate's every move. She travels the country giving speeches and attending events (her mother watches the kids when she's on the road), but resists staying away for more than one night at a stretch. When the couple catch up several times a day on the phone, the talk is more likely to be about their daughters than the latest poll projections. Michelle has made it her job to ensure that Barack, who now lives full time inside the surreal campaign bubble of adoring crowds and constant attention, doesn't himself lose sight of what's normal.

Onstage, Obama has introduced Michelle as "my rock"—the person who keeps him focused and grounded. In her words, she is just making sure he is "keeping it real."...She insists that Barack fly home from wherever he is to attend ballet recitals and parent-teacher conferences. When the couple host political gatherings at their home in Chicago's Hyde Park, Michelle asks everyone to bring along their children. To help bridge the physical distance between father and daughters, Michelle recently bought two MacBook laptops, one for Barack and one for the kids, so they could have video chats over the Internet. Last Thursday, she cleared his schedule so he could return home to Chicago and spend Valentine's Day with her and the girls.

Those who know her invariably describe Michelle as poised, relaxed and confident. "There is no difference between the public Michelle and the private Michelle," says University of Chicago law professor David Strauss, who sits with her on the board of the University of Chicago's Lab School. (The Obamas' daughters attend the school.) "There's no pretense."...

...In 1989, she was assigned to mentor a young, unconventional summer associate by the name of Barack Obama. Michelle was unimpressed by the office gossip about the hotshot Harvard Law student, a biracial intern from Hawaii whom she dismissed as "a black guy who can talk straight." But she was disarmed by his confidence. He walked up to her one day and said, "I think we should go out on a date." She resisted, thinking it was inappropriate. She dropped her guard after he asked her to go to one of his community-organizing sessions in a church basement, where he delivered a stemwinding speech about closing the gap between what he called "the world as it is, and the world as it should be."

She was smitten. "I was, like, 'This guy is different,'" she says. "He is really different, in addition to being nice and funny and cute and all that. He's got a seriousness and a commitment that you don't see every day." She recalls thinking, " 'Well, you know, I'd like to be married to somebody who felt that deeply about things.' " At this, she paused for a second. "Maybe I didn't say 'marry.' Scratch that part. It took him a little while." Each of them offered the other something they had lacked growing up—for her, a free-thinking outlook, for him, a sense of

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...After she worked for the city for a couple of years, Barack led Michelle closer to community activism. He was on the board of a start-up group called Public Allies, a nonprofit that encouraged young people to go into public service—just the kind of encouragement she felt she had never gotten. The organization needed a Chicago director. The job paid even less than her city post. "It sounded risky and just out there," she says. "But for some reason it just spoke to me. This was the first time I said, 'This is what I say I care about. Right here. And I will have to run it.'" (Michelle jokes that she took a pay cut with every new job. The couple finally got out of debt when Barack's book, "The Audacity of Hope," became a best seller.) More recently, she inspired a program to send doctors from the prestigious University of Chicago Medical Center into community hospitals and clinics in poor surrounding neighborhoods...

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Michelle Obama in Newsweek (2008-02-17 20:12)

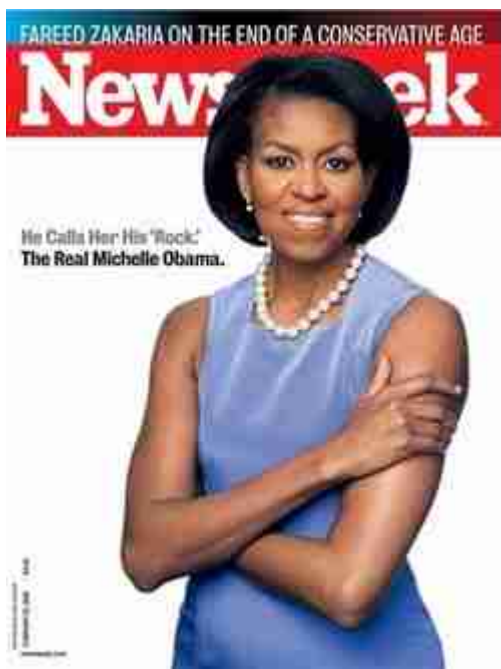
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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama at Founder's Day Gala (2008-02-18 12:53)

Check out Barack Obama speaking at the Founder's Day Gala in Wisconsin.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Wisconsin & Hawai'i: Your Moment is Now (2008-02-18 18:55)

Wisconsin and Hawai'i vote tomorrow. Barack Obama will try to maintain momentum going into Mar. 4 when four states including Texas and Ohio will vote.

Here is voting information for Tuesday.

Wisconsin & Hawai'i: Your Moment is Now

by Christopher Hass

, Monday, February 18, 2008 at 05:30 PM

Important Voting Info: On Tuesday voters throughout Wisconsin will head to the polls, while Hawaiians prepare to caucus Tuesday night. Both states allow same-day registration; in Wisconsin Democrats, Republicans, and Independents can all vote for Barack, and Hawaiians can change their registration to Democrat at their caucus sites. Use the links below to find out when, where and how to vote or caucus for Barack Obama:

Wisconsin

- Polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Open to all Democrats, Republicans, and Independents
- New voters can register at the polls
- Find Your Polling Location
- Wisconsin Primary Frequently Asked Questions

Hawai'i

- Caucus doors open at 6:30 PM, caucuses begin at 7:00 PM
- New voters can register at their caucus location
- Republicans and Independents and change their registration at their caucus location
- Find Your Caucus Location
- Hawai'i Top 10 Caucus Facts



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Hawai'i and Wisconsin (2008-02-19 18:08)

Check out these YouTube videos as we await tonight's results with polls in Wisconsin closing in less than an hour.

Orgazining in Kona, Hawai'i

[EMBED]

Barack on Education

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama wins Wisconsin (2008-02-19 19:37)

NBC News and CNN are projecting Barack Obama will win the Wisconsin primary. The caucuses in Hawai'i begin at 7 pm local time.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama heads to Mar. 4 with Big Mo (2008-02-20 09:49)

Sen. Barack Obama racked up 10 straight wins with convincing victories last night in Wisconsin and Hawai'i. The winning streak definitely gives Obama momentum going into the big state contest of Mar. 4 when Texas, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont go to the polls. Many undecided voters may tip toward Barack because of his wins in other states.

Still Hillary Clinton has strong establishment ties particularly in Texas, and the Obama campaign is mounting a full-blown ground operation to contest these states.

Videos of Barack's victory speech last night in Houston.

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



-An Obama Junkie- (2008-02-20 12:42:00)

I am really pleased Obama won Wisconsin and Hawaii...great blog. Please check mine out: blogforobama.blogspot.com

Thanks!

Anonymous (2008-02-20 15:23:00)

Hillary along with Bill loves Latino's. Who else would send Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba after his mother gave up her life for his freedom?

Josh (2008-02-20 16:39:00)

This is a good blog. I am so happy Obama won Wisconsin and Hawaii. With a strong showing in Texas this thing could be over sooner than expected. I have a website I just created with my friends, and there's some good stuff about Obama and more to follow, check it out and comment, let us know how you feel, thank you.

www.inbetweenpolitics.com

Anonymous (2008-02-21 21:05:00)

Obama sounded more like a televangelist than a candidate during his 45-minute speech in Houston. He talks about 'change' as it relates to many different problems, yet he never says what he'll 'change' to solve them. Just sounds kind of empty to me. Good public speaking is one thing, but being the President of the United States is something totally different.

Obama Events in the Mar. 4 States (2008-02-20 16:32)

Feb 20 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Dallas, TX

Feb 20 Rally with Michelle Obama

in Warwick, RI

Feb 21 Community Gathering with Michelle Obama

in Cleveland, OH

Feb 22 Community Event with Barack Obama

in Corpus Christi, TX

Early Vote Kickoff with Senator Ted Kennedy

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 @ 12:30pm

Corpus Christi, TX

Early Vote Kick-Off With Senator Edward Kennedy

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 @ 3:30pm

Edinburg, TX

Austin HQ - Poster Making Party

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 @ 6:00pm

Austin, TX

Early Vote Kickoff with Senator Ted Kennedy

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Laredo, TX

San Marcos- Rally for Change with Senator Ted Kennedy

Thursday, February 21, 2008 @ 10:30am

San Marcos, TX

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama wins Teamsters and Boilermakers' endorsements (2008-02-20 16:46)

Barack Obama received the endorsement of the Teamsters Union and the 65,000-member International Brotherhood of Boilermakers today.

The Teamsters have 80,000 members in Pennsylvania, 60,000 in Ohio and 17,000 in Texas.

Obama now has four endorsements from the Change to Win labor federation making him eligible for a national endorsement by the group. The federation plans to meet Thursday to talk about a possible endorsement.



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves to reporters upon his arrival in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama Wins the Democrats Abroad Primary (2008-02-21 11:19)

From barackobama.com:

Obama Wins the Democrats Abroad Primary

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 08:23 AM

Barack just won his 11th straight victory, taking the Democrats Abroad primary...

X

WASHINGTON (AP) – Barack Obama won the Democrats Abroad global primary in results announced Thursday, giving him 11 straight victories in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.



The Illinois senator won the primary in which Democrats living in other countries voted by Internet, mail and in person, according to results released by the Democrats Abroad, an organization sanctioned by the national party. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has not won a nominating contest since Super Tuesday, more than two weeks ago.

More than 20,000 U.S. citizens living abroad voted in the primary, which ran from Feb. 5 to Feb. 12. Obama won about 65 percent of the vote, according to the results released Thursday. Voters living in 164 countries cast votes online, while expatriates voted in person in more than 30 countries, at hotels in Australia and Costa Rica, at a pub in Ireland and at a Starbucks in Thailand. The results took about a week to tabulate as local committees around the globe gathered ballots.

Please help us continue to build off of these 11 straight wins. Donate today and become one of the million...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Change to Win endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-21 12:05)

Sen. Barack Obama received a major endorsement today from the Change to Win labor federation.

Change to Win to Endorse Obama

By JESSE J. HOLLAND – 2 hours ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new Change to Win labor federation will give its first presidential endorsement to Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, a union official said Thursday.

The endorsement comes after a teleconference between Change to Win's leaders and the heads of the seven unions that make up the 6-million member federation, Greg Tarpinian, the federation's executive director, said in an interview.

Four of Change to Win's unions had already endorsed Obama, with the Teamsters endorsing Obama on Wednesday. UNITE HERE, the Service Employee International Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers also have endorsed Obama.

The Change to Win endorsement gives Obama a boost in the upcoming March 4 primaries in Texas and Ohio, as well as in Pennsylvania on April 22. There were 830,000 union workers in Pennsylvania and 730,000 in Ohio in 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, some of the largest numbers of unionized workers in the nation.

Tarpinian the vote was unanimous although the United Farm Workers, the Laborers' Union and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners had abstained. The farmworkers already had endorsed Clinton; the Carpenters originally endorsed John Edwards, who has dropped out, and the Laborers had yet to make an endorsement. Tarpinian said, however, the three unions released the federation to work for Obama in the upcoming primaries and caucuses.

The unions in the Change to Win federation broke from the AFL-CIO in 2005 over internal disagreements on how best to build organized labor's membership and political clout.

The AFL-CIO has not endorsed any candidate in the Democratic primary, although it has allowed its 56-member unions to make individual endorsements. The AFL-CIO's executive council will meet in San Diego March 3-5, and a decision could be announced.

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Change to Win endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-21 12:05)

Sen. Barack Obama received a major endorsement today from the Change to Win labor federation.

Russ Feingold 'inclined' to endorse Barack Obama (2008-02-21 13:12)

Sen. Russ Feingold, darling of progressives in the Democratic Party, may be set to endorse Sen. Barack Obama according to news reports.

Feingold said he was "inclined" to endorse Obama because of the senator's impressive win in Wisconsin, the state Feingold represents.

Obama was endorsed today by Wisconsin Rep. Steve Kagen, who like Feingold is a superdelegate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Brian (2008-02-21 19:59:00)

Dear Barack Obama supporters,

Clinton supporters became complacent when she was the frontrunner. Please understand that our most difficult tests to date are soon approaching. We need Obama to win Texas and Ohio to emerge early as a strongly supported candidate for the general election. Please join me in pledging to personally convert 4 individuals in Texas and Ohio to be Obama Supporters who cast a vote in the primary. How? I believe that each 100 \$ donation nets a vote. Other methods include phone banking, canvassing, and educating family and friends. Please make this pledge so that we don't make the same mistake as the Clinton supporters - We won't be complacent.

Visit www.obamapledge.com to join this pledge and for information on how to generate new Obama supporters

Anonymous (2008-02-23 00:14:00)

I'm a democrat But I will be voting Republican this time or not voting at all. It's bad when you have to buy a vote shame on you.

¡Viva Obama! (2008-02-22 07:00)

The grassroots site amigosdeobama.com has produced this engaging video featuring Mariachi Aguilas de Mexico.

[EMBED]

The campaign is also running the following ad "Como Padre" in Texas.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-02-22 17:01:00)

Good video that exposes Hillary's hypocrisy:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZTSgGcfq74>

Pam Griffin (2008-02-24 13:44:00)

after visiting with Hillary's campaign headquarter people, one in particular, an elderly woman who has worked in Washington and been on many campaigns for the democrats..stated from seeing firsthand that the Clinton's supported Ted Kennedy a LOT with all his issues..alchol abuse being one over the years. Obama CALLED the Clintons for help in becoming a senator and they reached out to him and did indeed help him. It can be PROVEN Hillary thought of every single campaign issue FIRST and Obama has COPIED her all along the way, clinging onto the Clinton's experience, knowledge, wisdom, creative genius and even their being so well known. Without their help he would not have had foot in the door at all. Now this is how he and Ted say thank you. They have shown their faces as someone like the Bush People, sneaky and underhanded. This last thing about Obama saying lies about Hillary's healthcare agenda. I would say obviously either he is too ignorant to understand it (then he would know the truth) OR he is an out and out liar. The man knows he cannot win without such snake in the grass type lies. I do not want this kind of person to be our president. We have had enough of that already with Bush and we have had enough of inexperience in the white house. Obama is NOT Martin Luther King. He does not have the beauty, the passion, the love in his heart. I see his energy as a boring, accountant and he will hurt our country sooo much when we need a strong person like Hillary (and her husband!) to make this country strong again. do not listen to pretty words that mean nothing if they cannot be backed up by actions. Hillary knows how to do it all and she will. Obama would depend on thousands and they would use him and abuse him and delay him and it would set us back yet again. be very afraid of him.

Upcoming Obama Events (2008-02-22 20:23)

Feb 23 Keeping America's Promise Rally with Barack Obama

in Akron, OH

Feb 23 Keeping America's Promise Rally with Barack Obama

in Cleveland, OH

Feb 24 Keeping America's Promise Rally with Barack Obama

in Toledo, OH

Economy & Trade Town Hall Meeting with Federico Pena

Saturday, February 23, 2008 @ 09:30am

El Paso, TX

Brownsville- Town Hall with Sen. John Kerry

Saturday, February 23, 2008 @ 3:30pm

Brownsville, TX

Del Rio - Town Hall with Sen. John Kerry

Saturday, February 23, 2008 @ 6:30pm

Del Rio, TX

Obama rally in Edinburg, Texas

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama promises close ties with India (2008-02-23 14:03)

In an article for the upcoming issue of *India Abroad* newspaper, Barack Obama explains his vision for close ties between India and the United States.



WASHINGTON: Senator Barack Obama has vowed to build "a close strategic partnership" with India if he wins the Democratic nomination and goes on to win the presidential race in November.

Describing the United States and India as "natural partners", the Democratic front-runner avers that he is looking to strengthen and further the "critical relationship" between the two countries.

"That is why I voted for the US-India nuclear energy deal...And that is why I will move forward to build a close strategic partnership between the United States and India when I am President of the United States," he writes in an article for the upcoming issue of *India Abroad*, the ethnic Indian weekly published from New York.

As he puts it, "the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy are natural partners, sharing important interests and fundamental democratic values". The two nations now need to "work together to combat the common threats of the 21st century".

"Both countries have been victims of catastrophic terrorist attacks, and we have a shared interest in succeeding in the fight against Al Qaeda and its operational and ideological affiliates," he says.

An ardent admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, whose portrait hangs in his Senate office, Obama writes: "In my life, I have always looked to Mahatma Gandhi as an inspiration, because he embodies the kind of transformational change that can be made when ordinary people come together to do extraordinary things."

Gandhi, he says, reminds him that "real results will not just come from Washington, they will come from the people". In the article, Obama lauds the thriving Indian-American community in glowing terms for "lifting up our economy and creating jobs".

"Leading entrepreneurs, innovators, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and hardworking professionals are

adding to the richness and success of the American society,” he notes, adding: “As President, I will reach out to encourage the active engagement and partnership of the vibrant Indian-American community in making the change we seek.”

Although his rival Hillary Clinton has traditionally enjoyed far more support from Indian Americans, Obama has in recent months come into his own, attracting substantial numbers, including some prominent members of the community. Maryland House Majority Leader Kumar Barve and Kansas Representative Rajiv Goyle are among those who have endorsed Obama.

On the issue of hate crimes worrying sections of the Indian community, notably the Sikhs, since the 9/11 attacks, Obama lamented that “flawed strategies like racial profiling have had a disproportionate effect on Indian Americans”.

“Too often, restrictions at our borders have prevented entry for many students and family members who seek nothing more than opportunity and reunification with loved ones,” he notes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama in Austin (2008-02-23 20:54)

Check out the YouTube video of Barack Obama 's rally yesterday in Austin, Texas.
[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Comedian George Lopez endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-24 08:30)

The Austin American Statesman reports that Hispanic comedian George Lopez supports Barack Obama 's candidacy.

George Lopez Plays the Spin Room

By Juan Castillo

Among the interview subjects drawing some of the biggest media crowds in the spin room following Thursday night's debate was comedian George Lopez.

Looking dapper in a dark pinstriped suit, Lopez was all business — mostly — as he mused on the race for the Democratic nomination and his support for Sen. Obama.

"I think there's a hopelessness in America and (Obama) seems to be speaking to that," Lopez said.

Latinos, said Lopez, must become political "because we're under assault. We're like rolled up in a ball and we shouldn't be that way."

Lopez said he had decided to support Obama after much consideration and that he believes he can be a great leader.

"You'd like to feel like the White House is your house. It belongs to the people," Lopez said. After pausing and grinning ever so slightly, he added "Brown people too."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Comedian George Lopez endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-24 08:30)

The Austin American Statesman reports that Hispanic comedian George Lopez supports Barack Obama's candidacy.

Barack Obama in Football Country (2008-02-24 12:46)

Sen. Barack Obama , campaigning actively in Texas may have wished he had played more football in high school rather than basketball, as the gridiron definitely reigns over the basketball court in the Lone Star State.

X

 Thu Feb 21, 1:46 PM ET

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. poses with a football during a tour of the University of Texas, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, in Austin, Texas. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Jim Borgman

X

From: Cincinnati Enquirer

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-02-24 13:30:00)

February 3, 2008

Nuclear Leaks and Response Tested Obama in Senate

By MIKE McINTIRE

When residents in Illinois voiced outrage two years ago upon learning that the Exelon Corporation had not disclosed radioactive leaks at one of its nuclear plants, the state's freshman senator, Barack Obama, took up their cause.

Mr. Obama scolded Exelon and federal regulators for inaction and introduced a bill to require all plant owners to notify state and local authorities immediately of even small leaks. He has boasted of it on the campaign trail, telling a crowd in Iowa in December that it was "the only nuclear legislation that I've passed."

"I just did that last year," he said, to murmurs of approval.

A close look at the path his legislation took tells a very different story. While he initially fought to advance his bill, even holding up a presidential nomination to try to force a hearing on it, Mr. Obama eventually rewrote it to reflect changes sought by Senate Republicans, Exelon and nuclear regulators. The new bill removed language mandating prompt reporting and simply offered guidance to regulators, whom it charged with addressing the issue of unreported leaks.

Those revisions propelled the bill through a crucial committee. But, contrary to Mr. Obama's comments in Iowa, it ultimately died amid parliamentary wrangling in the full Senate.

"Senator Obama's staff was sending us copies of the bill to review, and we could see it weakening with each successive draft," said Joe Cosgrove, a park district director in Will County, Ill., where low-level radioactive runoff had turned up in groundwater. "The teeth were just taken out of it."

The history of the bill shows Mr. Obama navigating a home-state controversy that pitted two important constituencies against each other and tested his skills as a legislative infighter. On one side were neighbors of several nuclear plants upset that low-level radioactive leaks had gone unreported for years; on the other was Exelon, the country's largest nuclear plant operator and one of Mr. Obama's largest sources of campaign money.

Since 2003, executives and employees of Exelon, which is based in Illinois, have contributed at least \$227,000 to Mr. Obama's campaigns for the United States Senate and for president. Two top Exelon officials, Frank M. Clark, executive vice president, and John W. Rogers Jr., a director, are among his largest fund-raisers.

Another Obama donor, John W. Rowe, chairman of Exelon, is also chairman of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the nuclear power industry's lobbying group, based in Washington. Exelon's support for Mr. Obama far exceeds its support for any other presidential candidate.

In addition, Mr. Obama's chief political strategist, David Axelrod, has worked as a consultant to Exelon. A spokeswoman for Exelon said Mr. Axelrod's company had helped an Exelon subsidiary, Commonwealth Edison, with communications strategy periodically since 2002, but had no involvement in the leak controversy or other nuclear issues.

The Obama campaign said in written responses to questions that Mr. Obama "never discussed this issue or this bill" with Mr. Axelrod. The campaign acknowledged that Exelon executives had met with Mr. Obama's staff about the bill, as had concerned residents, environmentalists and regulators.

The campaign did not directly address the question of why Mr. Obama had told Iowa voters that the legislation had passed.

Barack in Ohio (2008-02-24 23:29)

Here are some videos from Barack Obama's appearances in Ohio.

Blockbuster – long lines for Barack's speech at the John S. Knight Center in Akron.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama speaking and attending a townhall meeting in Lorain, Ohio.

[EMBED]

Barack at a rally of more than 6,000 people in Cleveland, Feb. 23.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Register in Vermont by Wednesday (2008-02-25 13:18)

From barackobama.com :

Vermont: Wednesday Deadline to Register

by Christopher Hass,

Monday, February 25, 2008 at 12:04 PM

Vermont Primary Voter Registration Deadline: Wednesday, February 27

On March 4th, voters in Vermont will join Texas, Ohio and Rhode Island in what could be a decisive day for the campaign. Only registered voters can participate, and Vermont residents have until Wednesday, February 27 to register to vote. Vermont is an open primary; there is no party registration and all registered voters can participate, but Wednesday is the last day to register.

How to Register: Voters must visit contact their local town clerk's office in order to register. You can find your town clerk's location and hours online or call the Vermont Secretary of State at 802-828-2464.



Early Voting: Registered Vermont voters don't have to wait until March 4th – you can vote early at your local town clerk's office from now until March 3rd. Find your town clerk's location and hours online or call the Vermont Secretary of State at 802-828-2464.

You can also visit the Vermont Secretary of State site for information on how to register.

Check out VT.BarackObama.com for more information on how to get involved in Vermont.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Upcoming Obama Events (2008-02-25 18:56)

Barack in Texas

Wednesday, February 27 Stand for Change Rally
in San Marcos

Thursday, February 28 Stand for Change Rally
in Fort Worth

Friday, February 29 Stand for Change Rally
in San Antonio



Precinct Captain Training
Monday, February 25, 2008 @ 1:00pm
Houston, TX
Caroline Kennedy in Austin
Monday, February 25, 2008 @ 2:00pm
Austin, TX
Community Gathering with Caroline Kennedy
Monday, February 25, 2008 @ 5:45pm
San Antonio, TX
Learn How to Caucus for Obama!
Tuesday, February 26, 2008 @ 12:30pm
Houston, TX
Team Obama Training in Arlington
Tuesday, February 26, 2008 @ 6:30pm
Arlington, TX

MORE EVENTS »

Barack in Ohio Monday, February 25 Keeping America's Promise Rally
in Dayton
Wednesday, February 27 Keeping America's Promise Rally
in Columbus



X X
X X
X X



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-02-26 09:03)

The following abstract discusses a study that verifies a genetic connection between populations in Madagascar and Tonga far to the East.

Regards,

Paul Kekai Manansala

Sacramento

J Hum Genet. 2008;53(2):106-20. Epub 2007 Dec 14.



Links

Austronesian genetic signature in East African Madagascar and Polynesia.

Regueiro M, Mirabal S, Lacau H, Caeiro JL, Garcia-Bertrand RL, Herrera RJ.

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University, University Park, OE 304, Miami, FL, 33199, USA.

The dispersal of the Austronesian language family from Southeast Asia represents the last major diaspora leading to the peopling of Oceania to the East and the Indian Ocean to the West. Several theories have been proposed to explain the current locations, and the linguistic and cultural diversity of Austronesian populations. However, the existing data do not support unequivocally any given migrational scenario. In the current study, the genetic profile of 15 autosomal STR loci is reported for the first time for two populations from opposite poles of the Austronesian range, Madagascar at the West and Tonga to the East. These collections are also compared to geographically targeted reference populations of Austronesian descent in order to investigate their current relationships and potential source population(s) within Southeast Asia. Our results indicate that while Madagascar derives 66.3 % of its genetic makeup from Africa, a clear connection between the East African island and Southeast Asia can be discerned. The data suggest that although geographic location has influenced the phylogenetic relationships between Austronesian populations, a genetic connection that binds them beyond geographical divides is apparent.

Latest Obama Videos (2008-02-26 09:26)

Line of supporters outside of University of Cincinnati.

[EMBED]

Barack on the "Texas Two-Step."

[EMBED]

Barack Obama speaks to a crowd of 11,000 in Dayton, Ohio.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Latest Obama Videos (2008-02-26 09:26)

Line of supporters outside of University of Cincinnati.

[EMBED]

Sen. Christopher Dodd endorses Sen. Barack Obama (2008-02-26 12:02)

Forwarded from barackobama.com :

Senator Chris Dodd Endorses Barack Obama for President

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 08:58 AM

A major endorsement today: Senator Chris Dodd is throwing his support behind Barack Obama...



CLEVELAND (AP) – Sen. Christopher Dodd endorsed one-time presidential rival Barack Obama on Tuesday and said it is time for Democrats to join forces to defeat the Republicans in the fall campaign.

"I don't want a campaign that is divisive here, and there's a danger in that," Dodd said, although he denied he was nudging Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to end her candidacy.

Dodd said Obama was "ready to be president and I am ready to support him in this campaign."

The two men appeared together at a news conference. Dodd is the first of the Democratic campaign dropouts to endorse another candidate.

He said Obama "has been poked and prodded, analyzed and criticized, called too green, too trusting and for all of that has already won" more than half the states and millions of votes.

"It's now the hour to come together. ... This is the moment for Democrats and independents and others to come together, to get behind this candidacy," he said.

Here are Senator Obama's remarks (as prepared for delivery) in response to Dodd's endorsement...

It has been my pleasure to serve alongside Chris Dodd in the United States Senate. It was a privilege to share the stage with him during his principled run for the presidency. And it is an honor to stand here with him today, and to accept his endorsement of my candidacy for President of the United States of America.

I say that because Chris Dodd loves his country – and believes in the ideal of public service – as much as anyone I know. From his years as a young Peace Corps worker in the 1960s to this very day, Senator Dodd has devoted his life to building a stronger, fairer, healthier America; and a more just and secure world.

Whether it was his work to protect voting rights; his long, determined battle for the Family and Medical Leave Act; his leadership on U.S. relations with Latin America; or his defense of our Constitution – Chris Dodd has been at the forefront of some of the most important issues of our time. He has worked hard to preserve the right of workers to organize despite an onslaught from a hostile administration. He has been an advocate for our children, and no one has fought harder to improve our schools. He has been a voice for unity amid the often bitter debate over immigration reform. And I have seen firsthand on the Foreign Relations Committee his commitment to restoring our standing in the world.

But as passionate as Chris Dodd is about the causes he champions, he also has that rare ability to disagree without being disagreeable. He is respected on both sides of the aisle for his authenticity, reason, and civility. And that is how, time and again, he's been able to bring Democrats and Republicans together to make a real difference in the lives of the American people.

He conducted his campaign for President with that same character. He resisted the cheap and easy shots, and elevated the debate with important ideas about how to address the great challenges we face. He and I share a deep commitment to take our country in a new direction.

We know it's time to end the war in Iraq. This war has not made us safer, it has overstretched our military, it has cost us precious American lives, and it is costing us billions and billions of dollars that could be better spent finishing the fight in Afghanistan and bringing relief to the middle class here at home.

We know it's time for an energy policy that ends our addiction to oil. We can't keep buying oil from dictators while our planet is in peril and Americans are paying more at the pump. It's time to embrace a clean energy policy that enhances our national security, while creating green jobs right here in states like Ohio.

We know it's time to reclaim the American Dream for the middle class. Instead of giving tax breaks to companies that ship our jobs overseas, it's time to put a tax cut in the pockets of working people and seniors. Instead of giving hundreds of millions to well-connected contractors in Iraq, it's time to put America back together again by investing in our infrastructure – an issue that Chris Dodd has shown real leadership on in the Senate. And instead of standing by while there's a squeeze on the middle class, it's time to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act so no American has to choose between a job and their family.

We know it's time to restore our Constitution and the rule of law. This is an issue that was at the heart of Senator Dodd's candidacy, and I share his passion for restoring the balance between the security we demand and the civil liberties that we cherish.

The American people must be able to trust that their president values principle over politics, and justice over unchecked power. I've been proud to stand with Senator Dodd in his fight against retroactive immunity for the telecommunications industry. Secrecy and special interests must not trump accountability. We must show our citizens – and set an example to the world – that laws cannot be ignored when it is inconvenient. Because in America – no one is above the law.

It's time to reject torture without equivocation. It's time to close Guantanamo and to restore habeas corpus. It's time to give our intelligence and law enforcement agencies the tools they need to track down

and take out terrorists, while ensuring that their actions are subject to vigorous oversight that protects our freedom. So let me be perfectly clear: I have taught the Constitution, I understand the Constitution, and I will obey the Constitution when I am President of the United States.

Finally, it's time to once again inspire this nation to rally behind a common purpose – a higher purpose. Throughout his campaign, Senator Dodd spoke eloquently about the need to turn the page to a new era of public service. That is the legacy of his own family – the legacy of a father who stood up to the Nazis at Nuremberg, and a young man who enlisted in the Peace Corps after he heard President Kennedy's call to service on a cold Inauguration Day.

I am running for president because I believe deeply in the promise of America – without that promise, I would not be here today, because my story is not possible anywhere else on earth. I believe that each of us has an obligation to do our part to extend that promise – not just for ourselves, but for our country. That's why I share Senator Dodd's commitment to dramatically expand public service programs like AmeriCorps. That's why I will give all Americans more opportunities to serve their communities and their country. And that's why I will work to put an end to the division and distraction in our politics, so that we can finally come together to meet the great challenges we face. I know that it will not be easy to deliver the change that we seek, but I know that the road will be easier with the support of Senator Dodd and the millions of voices who have joined our call for change. With his help, I know that we can unite our Democratic Party, and build a coalition that brings together Democrats and Independents and Republicans behind a mandate for change. Together, we can keep America's promise in the 21st century.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Debate and Dodd Endorsement (2008-02-26 21:18)

Check out the videos from tonight's debate, and also the Sen. Chris Dodd endorsement.

Ohio Debate: Bridging America

[EMBED]

Sen. Christopher Dodd endorses Sen. Barack Obama in Cleveland, Ohio

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Former Texas Gov. Mark White endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-27 09:47)

Mark White, former Texas governor, endorsed Barack Obama it was announced today.

"I am proud to support a candidate who has inspired a nation and unprecedented number of Texans to get involved and mobilize for a new direction in America. Barack's vision is exactly what our nation needs right now. He offers America the opportunity to move beyond the divisive politics and moneyed special interests and start addressing the

many great challenges we face as a nation," Governor White said.

Governor White announced his endorsement at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Houston to emphasize Obama's plan to pass universal health care legislation during his first term as President.

"Right now, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured in nation," he said. "We are in desperate need of a comprehensive solution that will provide access to quality and affordable health care. I believe that Barack's health care plan is the answer we've been looking for."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Breaking: Rep. John Lewis Endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-27 15:43)

Forwarded from barackobama.com:

Breaking: Rep. John Lewis Endorses Obama
by Sam Graham-Felsen,
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 10:13 AM
Breaking from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution...



...Rep. John Lewis on Wednesday said he's switching his support from Sen. Hillary Clinton to Sen. Barack Obama in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Lewis cited the overwhelming preference for Obama in his district as a reason for his change of heart, but he also talked about Obama's campaign as transformational for the nation.

"Something's happening in America, something some of us did not see coming," Lewis said.

"Barack Obama has tapped into something that is extraordinary."

More on this soon...

Now it's your turn to step up for Obama – pick up the phone and help hit our mark of 1,000,000 calls by March 4th. Let's try to reach at least half a million by tomorrow – we can do this.

X

Barack responds to John McCain.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama Events for Mar. 4 (2008-02-27 19:28)

Barack In Texas Thursday, February 28 Stand for Change Townhall
in Austin

Thursday, February 28 Stand for Change Townhall
in Beaumont

Thursday, February 28 Stand for Change Rally
in Fort Worth

Friday, February 29 Stand for Change Rally
in San Antonio

Houston - Texas Precinct Captain Training
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 11:00am
Houston, TX

Rally with George Lopez
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 2:00pm
El Paso, TX

Women for Obama Phone Bank
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 6:00pm
Houston, TX

Learn How to Caucus for Obama!
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 7:00pm
Houston, TX

Town Hall with George Lopez in McAllen
Thursday, February 28, 2008 @ 10:30am
McAllen, TX

MORE EVENTS »

In Ohio:

✕

✕

In Rhode Island, actor Kal Penn will tour college campuses:

✕

University of Rhode Island- Kingston

Multicultural Center

Room: Hardge Room

74 Lower College Road

Kingston, RI

Doors open: 10:00 AM

Program beings: 10:15 AM

Rhode Island College

Student Union

Room: The café

600 Mount Pleasant Ave.

Providence, RI

Doors Open: 11:45 AM

Program beings: 11:55 AM

Brown University

Alumnae Hall

Room: The Crystal Room

194 Meeting Street

Providence, RI

Doors open: 1:15 PM

Program beings: 1:30 PM

Roger Williams University

New Academic Building

Room: Bayroom

One Old Ferry Road

Bristol, RI

Doors open: 2:45

Program begins: 3:00pm

Barack Obama will also visit Rhode Island on Saturday with details coming soon on barackobama.com .

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Toledo Blade (OH) endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-28 09:58)

Check out the Toledo Blade newspaper's (Ohio) endorsement of Barack Obama .



Obama, for change

THE Blade has a long-established principle of seldom endorsing a candidate in any primary election. It's easy to see, however, that this isn't a typical year. For the first time in history, the outcome of the Ohio primary may well determine the Democratic nominee for president of the United States.

We are not yet ready to say who we will endorse in November. But we wholeheartedly agree with something our editorial board heard on Sunday: 'We have to have a government that works for ordinary people.

We've got to be able to bring the country together so we have a working majority for change. We have to break down some of the ideologically driven polarization that prevents us from taking practical steps to make the country more competitive and to get opportunity to people.'

We urge Ohio Democrats to vote on Tuesday for the man who spoke those words, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. It has become clear during the year-long primary campaign that he eclipses Sen. Hillary Clinton as the strongest possible candidate to run in the general election against the presumptive Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain.

Moreover, we believe that Mr. Obama's inspiring life story, keen intellect, strong but quiet confidence, ready grasp of public policy issues, and his fresh and optimistic world view are what America needs after eight years of an administration that repeatedly has shown open contempt for the American people and for the Constitution.

Mr. Obama offers a breath of fresh air and new hope at a depressing time in the life of this nation. His selection would send an unmistakable signal to the world that America really may be living up to its promise of a just and truly pluralistic society.

The offspring of a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, young Obama grew up partly in Hawaii, partly in Indonesia. Were he to become president, we have no doubt that he would be seen — more than any previous occupant of the White House — as someone who is comfortably at home in the wider world. Yet his is the quintessential American story, that of the self-made man.

Those who object that he is too young overlook that he would, at 47, be a year older than Bill Clinton was when he was elected, and four years older than John F. Kennedy. Those who say that he is inexperienced in international affairs overlook that he sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The last two Democratic presidents, Mr. Clinton and Jimmy Carter, didn't have a day's service in Congress, much less foreign policy, before they took office, and it certainly hurt them.

Additionally, Mr. Obama, a younger and more physically vigorous man, will be in a far better position to push Americans into solving one of the biggest problems we face: that of an unhealthy, morbidly obese generation of young people, a health crisis that is costing the nation billions. We applaud the fact that, urged by his talented wife, Michelle, he has quit smoking. That alone should be an inspiration to millions. There are those who resent Mr. Obama's relatively rapid rise on the national scene and link his growing support to ingrained bias against putting a woman in the Oval Office. Certainly there may be some misguided prejudice against women. But that isn't what is going on this year. We agree the nation is more than ready for a female president. But Hillary Clinton is handicapped by her own baggage, and it has to do with her character, not her gender.

Voters during this primary process have come to know the real Hillary Clinton, and many have not liked what they've seen. Try as she might to project a warm personal image, she has come across mostly as a coldly calculating individual.

Moreover, her candidacy reminds voters of how the Clintons in effect looted the White House of expensive china, furniture, and other items when they left in January, 2001. And, if that weren't enough, they set up a gift registry to furnish their new home in New York. In contrast to such political royalism, Mr. Obama, his wife, and their two daughters live much closer to the reality of ordinary people.

America is badly in need of something new. We need this election to mark, at last, the end of the Vietnam period. Hillary Clinton is a product of that era and is, in a sense, still fighting its battles.

Barack Obama would be, figuratively if not literally, the first president of the 21st Century, much as John F. Kennedy was the first president born in the 20th century — each necessary to his time, and each able to see the world with a fresh, clear view.

Again, this endorsement does not mark our final verdict for November. John McCain, the all-but-certain GOP nominee, is a far more admirable figure than George W. Bush, although his policies on the war and the economy merely mimic those of the incumbent.

We will be scrutinizing the candidates very carefully as the general election campaign progresses. But at this point we feel free to break with tradition and enthusiastically recommend that on Tuesday, Ohio Democrats cast their primary ballots for Barack Obama.

Jim Borgman

X

From: Cincinnati Enquirer

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

San Marcos rally draws 12,000 Texans (2008-02-28 14:42)

Here's some video from Barack Obama's rally in San Marcos, Texas that attracted 12,000 Texans.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

New Obama TV Ads (2008-02-28 18:51)

Here are some new television ads running in Mar. 4 states.

"Plan," airing in Ohio. [EMBED]

"Oportunidad," running in Texas. [EMBED]

New ad running in Texas. [EMBED]

X



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

OSU Campus Newspaper endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-29 08:14)

OSU Campus Newspaper endorses Barack Obama (2008-02-29 08:55)

The Lantern, campus newspaper of Ohio State University, endorsed Barack Obama.

X

By endorsing Obama, The Lantern by no means doubts the leadership abilities of Sen. Hillary Clinton, who time and again, reminds us of her incredible resumé. Before this campaign season, most of us could not conceivably envision a black man or a woman occupying the Oval Office - at least not within the next several decades. However, as The New York Times editorial board aptly pointed out in its Jan. 25 endorsement of Clinton, "'Firstness' is not a reason to choose."

However, we have seen a side of Clinton throughout the last several weeks - many sides in fact - that leads us to question her tactics. In repeatedly accusing Obama of underhanded attacks, which she alleged to be right out of "Karl Rove's playbook," it is becoming clearer by the day that it is she who has become the Rove character in this novel. Her less-than-cataclysmic accusation of plagiarism last week coupled with her chief strategist's snide jabs at Obama's teenage drug use - which the Illinois senator had confessed to in his first book, "Dreams From My Father" - further illustrates the Clinton camp's evoking of the Rove-esque negativity that so intrinsically defined Bush's rise to power. And to remind us of the ever-present war, as she did during an interview Tuesday with David Brody of the Christian Broadcast Network, as a means of refuting Obama's so-called cult of personality, only serves to remind us how the war began in the first place and who voted to begin it.

Clinton's resumé is certainly impressive. Her undeniable and immense knowledge of the American political system and all its various cogs and inner workings provides her a great lure, particularly for those Americans so in shock from the complete ineptness and incompetence of the Bush administration. Brilliant as she might be, she is not the remedy for the political apathy that has effectively transfused itself throughout the last seven years. She simply has too many enemies and the Republicans have a boundless arsenal against her. The conservative electorate so put off by McCain would flock to the polls in droves should Clinton lock the nomination. Their hatred for her is far and beyond any grudges they might hold for the oftentimes centrist Arizona senator. As Bush's former deputy assistant Peter Wehner wrote for the Washington Post Feb. 3, the GOP would not have much ammunition should Obama seal the nomination. "A number of prominent Republicans I know, who would wage a pitched battle against Hillary Clinton, like Obama and would find it hard to generate much enthusiasm in opposing him," he said.

By refusing to accept campaign money from lobbyists - a practice many contend undermines the very foundation of democracy - Obama has proven politicians can feasibly run on grassroots support alone and prosper from it. It would be wonderful to have a president not beholden to the PACs as we are so used to. Unfortunately, in order for him to be a competent leader, Obama will need to learn that by ignoring special interests, he cannot hope to get much legislation passed in Congress. Although he might be through playing "the game" in Washington, his colleagues are not.

The Bush administration has left the country quaking - stuck in a horribly planned and executed war with no visible end, teetering on the edge of economic recession and reeling from fear (and future fear) of civil liberty reprisals stemming from the War on Terror. We have confidence in McCain's abilities to begin

to bring the country out of this hole. It would be a great advantage to have a war veteran at the helm for once. We do, however, hold concerns for his complicity and continued support for Bush's Iraq War policies, which have only lengthened our unnecessary occupation.

In supporting Obama for president, we at The Lantern feel he is in the best possible position to follow through on his plans, to unite the country behind a single cause and begin to fix the fractured nation Bush will have left behind next January. As Caroline Kennedy wrote of Obama Jan. 27 for the Times, "I have never had a president who inspired me the way people tell me that my father inspired them," she wrote. "But for the first time, I believe I have found the man who could be that president - not just for me, but for a new generation of Americans."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

A million calls by March 4th (2008-02-29 10:50)

The official Obama campaign has asked supporters to make 1,000,000 calls to voters by March 4th. To participate, click on the image below. If you don't have free long distance, you may be able to make calls from an office or other location near you.



Former Dallas Cowboy star Emmett Smith introduces Barack Obama at a Dallas rally on Feb. 20, 2008.

[EMBED]

Charles Gibson of ABC News visits Barack Obama's campaign headquarters in Chicago.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Social Security Administration Union endorses Obama (2008-02-29 14:53)

Local Council 220 of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), representing 25,000, Social Security Administration workers endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today for president.

The parent AFGE organizations that represents 600,000 federal workers in the District of Columbia has not endorsed a candidate. Here is Local 220's press release:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ – The American Federation of Government Employees' Council 220, which represents 25,000 federal employees in the Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices, today announced that it will support Sen. Barack Obama for President of the United States. "It was a difficult choice between two highly qualified candidates, but in the end we feel Sen. Obama will offer the kind of new leadership necessary to restore the Social Security Administration to a first class agency," said Witold Skwierczynski president of AFGE Council 220. "Sen. Obama has been a friend of labor, displaying a firm understanding of the critical importance of both a healthy labor movement and strong government in America. We are confident that as President, Sen. Obama will look closely at SSA's needs and work to reestablish the necessary working relationship between the agency and its bargaining unit employees."

In recent years, public access to SSA services has been severely limited because of budget restrictions. Proposed budget cuts and updates to "modernize" the system have been misguided and poorly implemented, such as the push to force seniors to conduct the complicated SSA process entirely on the internet.

The Council said it retains the utmost respect for Sen. Clinton, but notes that the next administration must be prepared to make the changes necessary to meet SSA's critical challenges. Unfortunately, the previous Clinton Administration made cuts that severely limited the agency's ability to effectively pursue its mission, a trend accelerated by the Bush Administration's agenda to create privatized social security. "What SSA needs is leadership that respects the value of its employees and seeks their input as the agency moves through the 21st century. We believe the candidate most apt to bring about that change is Sen. Barack Obama," added Skwierczynski.

The Council of Social Security Field Office Locals, Council 220, is an affiliate of the American Federation of Government Employees. AFGE HAS NOT YET ENDORSED a candidate in the presidential race.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is the largest federal employee union, representing 600,000 workers in the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia.

American Federation of Government Employees

Video from Texas and Ohio Alamobama

[EMBED]

Former Army captain talks about his support for Barack Obama

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-02-29 14:53)

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American Federation of Government Employees

Upcoming Obama Events (2008-02-29 20:17)

"Keeping America's Promise" Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Valley Forge High School Auditorium

9999 Independence Boulevard

Parma Heights, OH

Doors Open 6:30 PM

Event Begins 8:00 PM

This event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Free tickets are available at the following locations:

Obama for America Parma Office

Parma Town Plaza

7719 W Ridgewood Dr.

Cleveland, OH 44129

Hours: 10 AM – 9 PM

Friday and Saturday

SEIU Local 1199

1771 E. 30th St.

Cleveland, OH 44114

Hours: 10 AM – 9 PM

Friday and Saturday

For security reasons, do not bring bags. Please limit personal belongings. No sign or banners allowed.



Houston- Town Hall with Gov. Tim Kaine

Saturday, March 01, 2008 @ 2:00pm

Houston, TX

Forest Whitaker in Texarkana

Saturday, March 01, 2008 @ 6:45pm

Texarkana, TX

Rally with Forest Whitaker
Sunday, March 02, 2008 @ 12:45pm
Marshall, TX

Kal Penn's College GOTV Tour Saturday, March 1, 2008
One Million for Change Rally—"March Forth Towards March 4"
Shiloh Baptist Church
720 Mount Vernon Avenue
Columbus, OH 43203
Event Begins 9:00 AM
Canvass Kickoff at OSU OFA Office
Ohio State University
2240 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43201
Event Begin: 10:45 AM
Event at Denison University
Denison University
Slayter Auditorium, Fourth Floor
100 West College Street
Granville, OH 43023
Event Begins: 12:15
Event at Ohio Wesleyan University
Ohio Wesleyan University
61 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, OH 43015
Event Begins: 3:00 PM
Kal Penn in Ohio.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



2.3 March

Cincinnati Enquirer endorses Barack Obama (2008-03-01 09:02)

The Cincinnati Enquirer endorsed Barack Obama today for Democrats.

THE ENQUIRER

Enquirer endorses Obama on Democratic side Illinois senator offers energy, rich experiences, fresh ideas Despite all of the jokes and misplaced campaign rhetoric, it is the experiences of Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama that have set them apart - set them above - the crowded Democratic field that started the race for their party's nomination so many months ago.

Clinton's experience as first lady often is derided as "secondhand," or somehow invalid. Actually, it gave her a perspective on the possibilities and limitations of the presidency that no other candidate for the office ever has had.

Beyond that, she has been a senator for the past eight years, carving out her own political niche on the national scene. Her service on the Senate Armed Services Committee has involved her intimately in the details of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, subjects the next commander in chief will need to come to terms with immediately.

Obama was born to an American mother and Kenyan father, raised in a multicultural environment, graduated with an Ivy League education and worked as a community organizer on the streets of Chicago before becoming a civil rights lawyer. His life and experiences reflect the diversity of America in ways no other presidential candidate has experienced.

He points to the richness of these experiences as the reason he has earned a reputation of uniting people around what he describes on his Web site as the "politics of purpose" - getting people to work beyond their partisan differences to achieve common goals.

These are both extraordinarily talented candidates, but it is Obama's ability to reach beyond the partisan divide and gather in support that prompts The Enquirer to give him our endorsement for the Democratic nomination.

The true differences on policy between Obama and Clinton - on Iraq, on trade and a host of other issues, are narrow.

On health care, we prefer his approach of lowering costs rather than mandating participation.

Obama and Clinton both say ending the war in Iraq, while preserving U.S. security, would be their top priority upon taking office. Both say they would consult with the military experts and withdraw American forces and quickly as prudently possible. This will be a clear point of debate in the general election with John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee.

Clinton has shown herself to be an able senator, with an impressive grasp of details. But she remains for many in this country a polarizing figure.

Much of that dislike undoubtedly is residual disapproval of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and his policies and performance in office. That may be unfair to her, but it remains a fact of political life. But her own style has opened her to criticism as well. Her major public policy involvement during her husband's administration was the failed attempt to come up with a universal health care policy.

Critics remember her closed-door, high-handed and uncompromising approach, which drew opposition from many Democrats as well as Republicans and doomed the initiative.

She says she has learned from those mistakes, yet her style often seems abrasive and superior when criticized.

A president must be able to make hard decisions but must also be able to face - even welcome - dissenting views and understand that there can be validity in the opposition.

Obama has been on the national stage for a relatively short time, but in that time he has demonstrated an ability and a willingness to work with others. He does not waste time demonizing those with different views.

One obvious example is his work with Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., on a new non-proliferation effort with Russia designed to keep nuclear weapons from falling into terrorist hands. He also lists the need for coming up with a workable, bipartisan national energy policy as one of the first things he would tackle in office. But perhaps Obama's most impressive achievement so far is the excitement he has engendered in the political process itself.

He is a gifted public speaker, and the energy he brings to his campaign seems to have brought many people, including many young people, into the political process for the first time.

Obama has an undeniable appeal that is attracting people of divergent backgrounds. He seems able to find ways to work even with people who don't share his views.

We believe that of the two, he has the better chance at quickly creating the working coalitions that would allow for the progress a new administration will need in dealing with the issues at hand.

Jim Borgman



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's Statement for Women's History Month (2008-03-01 12:06)

Here is the statement released by Barack Obama for Women's History Month.

Women's History Month isn't just a chance to celebrate women's history; it's a chance to honor the extraordinary role women have played in shaping American history. From midnight journeys on the Underground Railroad to marches for women's suffrage and civil rights, from the bomber assembly lines of World War II to the boardrooms of today, women have always shown us what we can achieve when we refuse to settle for the world as it is and choose to remake the world as it should be.

But despite the achievements we honor this month, we know we still have challenges to overcome. We need to build an America where women earn the same pay as men for the same work, and have time off to care for a loved one who's sick; where women have control over the health care decisions that affect their lives, and don't have to choose between their kids and their careers. It's not enough to have a holiday that honors women if we don't also make sure our laws value women.

This holiday is particularly meaningful to me because I would not be the person I am without the women in my life. I was raised by a single mother across two continents, and by a grandmother who instilled in me her own Midwestern values. And my wife Michelle - a woman who's overcome a number of challenges as a lawyer and hospital executive - continues to make me a better man.

Every night I'm home, Michelle and I tuck two little girls into bed. And we want to make sure that they have the same opportunities as every little boy in this country. That's the dream that women have fought for throughout our nation's history, and that's the dream I'll fight to make real as President of the United States.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama speaks on Education and Parenting in Beaumont, TX (2008-03-01 16:23)

[EMBED]

MAKE THE CALL



Barack speaks on the Home Mortgage Crisis
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Gov. Deval Patrick and SEIU's Andy Stern in Youngstown, Ohio (2008-03-02 08:22)

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and SEIU President Andy Stern campaign for Sen. Barack Obama in Youngstown, Ohio in this YouTube video.

[EMBED]



1,500,000 CALLS
BY MARCH 4TH

SO FAR THIS WEEK
1 7 6 2 8 4 4

The new campaign goal is 1.5 million calls by the close of polls on Mar. 4.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-03-03 23:56:00)

So Obama is going to have a black phone in the white house instead of the red one LOL. I see a black one on this page not a red one.

A Call for 1.5 Million Calls (2008-03-02 16:11)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this email appeal today.

Dear Paul,

Yesterday, supporters all across the country responded to Barack's request by making more than 300,000 calls into crucial March 4th primary states.

We reached our goal of one million calls much faster than expected, so we're setting a new goal: 1,500,000 calls to voters by Tuesday.

Use our online phonebanking tool and start making calls right now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/call>

There's no easier or more effective way to keep building momentum for this campaign than making calls to likely supporters.

And there's no more important time to get involved than right now.

The primaries in Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island, and Vermont this Tuesday, March 4th, could be decisive for this campaign. Reach out to voters in these states, listen to what's important to them, and share your reasons for supporting Barack.

The online phonebanking tool is easy and fun to use. Here's how it works:

1. Choose a state you'd like to call.
2. Log into My.BarackObama.com and get a list of 20 names that only you will receive. (If you don't have a My.BarackObama account, creating one is fast and easy.)
3. Click on a name and you'll be led through a simple script, question by question.
4. Start making calls.

It's as easy as that – a list of likely supporters and an opportunity to make personal connections right from your own home.

You are the voice of this campaign, and there are thousands of people out there, waiting to hear from you.

Make your voice heard. Start making calls today:

<http://my.barackobama.com/call>

Thank you for making this happen,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

P.S. – There are a number of specific calling campaigns that you can select if you have special skills or interests.

If you are fluent in Spanish, you can reach out to Spanish speakers:

<http://my.barackobama.com/spanishcalls>

If you are a woman, you can choose to speak with other women about why you support Barack:

<http://my.barackobama.com/wfocalls>

If you're a student, you can talk to other students:

<http://my.barackobama.com/studentcalls>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Texas: Road to Change (2008-03-03 09:56)

Take a look at this YouTube video of Barack Obama's campaign in Texas.

Road to Change: Texas [EMBED]



X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Eastwood (2008-03-03 22:58:00)

Is Obama really for change?

<http://www.eastwoodzhao.com/barack-obama-is-the-lesser-of-two-evils/>

Anonymous (2008-03-03 23:52:00)

Vote for Obama uhh not if he was the only one running. GO HILLARY GO!!!!

Ohio: Road to Change (2008-03-03 16:19)

Check out the Ohio Road to Change video profiling the campaign in Ohio, and also a YouTube video showing Ohio supporters in Parma explain why they are supporting Barack.

Ohio: Road to Change [EMBED]

Parma, Ohio: Why Barack?

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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March 4th Voter Info for Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island, Vermont (2008-03-03 22:42)

From barackobama.com :

March 4th Voter Info: Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island, Vermont

by Christopher Hass

Monday, March 03, 2008 at 05:03 PM

Tomorrow voters in Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island and Vermont will have their chance to add their voices to the millions across the country calling for change.

If you live in one these four states, please take a moment to review the information below to make sure you know when, where and how to vote for Barack:

In Ohio

Polling Hours:

Polls are open from 6:30am to 7:30pm. Voters in line at 7:30pm must be permitted to vote.

- FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION

All registered voters can vote in the Ohio Democratic Primary, even Republicans and Independents.

Identification Requirements:

At the polls, you must verify your identity and address with any of the following: valid photo ID, current bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, or any government-issued document.

If you have any problems or questions, call our Voter Hotline at 1-866-675-2008 and press 4.

- LEARN MORE

In Texas

Polling & Caucusing Times:

Polls for the Democratic presidential primary are open from 7:00am until 7:00pm. Any voter in line by 7:00pm must be permitted to vote.

Precinct conventions begin at 7:15pm, immediately after the polls close. The precinct conventions are open to anyone who voted in the Democratic presidential primary.

- FIND YOUR POLLING & CAUCUS LOCATION

Identification Requirements:

When you go to vote, you should bring your voter registration certificate. If you have lost your certificate or forget to bring it, you may still vote by signing an affidavit and providing some other form of identification, including a driver's license, photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government-issued document (such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, and any official government mail addressed to you).

- [LEARN MORE](#)
- [FAQ](#)

In Rhode Island

Polling Hours:

Polling hours vary by city, but open as early as 7:00am and no later than 9:00am. All polls are open until 9:00pm. Voters in line by 9:00pm must be permitted to vote. See the "FAQ" link below for specific town polling hours.

- [FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION](#)

If you believe you were left off the voter list or otherwise prevented from regular voting by error, you must be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.

Identification Requirements:

No identification is required at the polling place unless you are a first-time voter who registered by mail and did not provide identification at that time. If this is the case, you must bring one of the following: a valid Rhode Island driver's license, Rhode Island ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or another government document.

- [LEARN MORE](#)
- [FAQ](#)

In Vermont

Polling Hours:

Polling hours vary by town. Polls will open no later than 10:00am, and will be open until 7:00pm. Any voter in line by 7:00pm must be permitted to vote. There is no party registration in Vermont, so any registered voter can vote in the Democratic primary.

- [FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION](#)

Identification Requirements:

When you go to vote, you should bring your voter registration certificate. If you have lost your certificate or forget to bring it, you may still vote by signing an affidavit and providing some other form of identification, including a driver's license, photo ID, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government-issued document (such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, and any official government mail addressed to you).

If you are a first-time voter in Vermont who registered by mail and did not provide identification at that time, you should bring a valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows your name and address.

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Barack Obama answers questions from an audience of veterans in San Antonio, Texas.

[EMBED]

Canadian Parliament speaks on Obama's NAFTA Position

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Fwd: Texans rally for Barack Obama (2008-03-04 08:24)

Texans Rally for Obama

Special to the NNPA from the Dallas Examiner Originally posted 3/4/2008

DALLAS (NNPA) - Sen. Barack Obama held his first Dallas rally at Reunion arena last week. His rock star popularity drew more than 15,000 would-be supporters of all ages who began lining up before the break of dawn to get a closer look at the man who could become America's first African- American President. The senator electrified the diverse audience during the rally that drew media attention from as far away as Japan. The event, which began at 11 a.m. on a work day, nearly filled the arena to capacity and if this is any indicator, Obama may prove to be a more worthy challenger for the Texas vote than Clinton anticipated.

As Obamamania hits the state, several prominent lawmakers have added their names to a number of Texas leaders who have endorsed Obama for president.

According to the Associated Press, Waco Rep. Jim Dunnam, leader of the House Democratic Caucus, said Obama would help state Democrats improve public schools and bring health insurance coverage to more people.

"In Texas and across the rest of the country, we want a president who will finally put doing what is right above corporate special interests and radical partisan agendas," Dunnam said. "We want change we can believe in, not the same old Washington-style promises made and promises broken."

Veteran state Sen. Royce West, a Dallas Democrat also praised his ability to reach a diverse population.

"Barack Obama has clearly demonstrated a unique ability to reach across political lines, energize independents, inspire youth and bridge varying ideologies to mobilize and reinvigorate the Democratic Party," West said.

Sen. Obama pulled in big endorsements in the superdelegate race with the recent announcement of support by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, who was among the first of the superdelegates from Texas to announce her endorsement, and U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards of Waco.

"I believe Senator Obama can bring about real change in Washington - change that will make a positive difference for average working Americans struggling to keep up with the high costs of health care, gasoline and education," Edwards said.

Despite wide speculation that Mexicans would not vote for Obama due to their allegiance to Clinton and also because of his race, he has managed to garner major support from the Mexican American Democrats, the oldest Hispanic group among Texas Democrats.

"The Mexican-American community needs more than just Spanish-speaking candidates trying to get the Hispanic vote. We need candidates who are committed to improve the lives of Latino men, women and children whether citizens, legal residents or undocumented by writing policies that work for us," said John Lopez, chairman of the group's endorsing committee.

In a local publication, State Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) chided media for comments suggesting race

would be a barrier in Obama's ability to reach Hispanics.

"Our main focus should not be on who can appeal to which racial or ethnic group more than another, but which candidate can unite all races, ethnicities, age groups, faiths and economic classes as a nation to address our common challenges and to restore our historic position as a respected leader of the free world," Anchia continues.

"I am the Latino son of immigrants, but, rather than engaging in the contrived politics of division, I want Barack Obama, a Black man of mixed ethnicity, to be my president. How's that for the politics of hope?" State Rep. Roberto Alonzo (D-Dallas) also endorsed Obama, in a lengthy endorsement, the Representative states, "For all those who question Obama's lack of experience in Washington, all I have to say is, that in this case, this may indeed be a blessing in disguise in many ways. Yes, the man is young, but let's face it, he has had more varied, diverse and quality-filled, challenging experiences in this young life as a public servant and statesman who gets better by the month, rather than by the decade, as is usually the case with so many of our Capitol Hill politicians."

In his endorsement Alonzo quotes Aldous Huxley: "Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him."

These endorsements come as an upset to Clinton who has been counting on the Hispanic vote in Texas, campaigning in predominantly Hispanic regions and playing up her work 36 years ago registering Hispanic voters in Texas.

However, early last week, Democratic Reps. Trey Martinez-Fischer of San Antonio, Eddie Lucio III of Brownsville and Ana Hernandez of Houston announced their support for Obama. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio endorsed Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Texas Democrat, former Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox also endorsed Clinton.

"In Texas we have a phrase, 'She's earned her spurs.' Hillary has spent more than 35 years earning her spurs and she is the best leader for our country," Mattox said in a prepared statement Feb. 19.

Also with Mattox that night in support of Clinton were former Texas Supreme Court Justice Bob Gammage, state Rep. Valinda Bolton of Austin and Cathy Bonner, a former aide to the late Gov. Ann Richards and a leader of a major cancer research proposition Texas voters approved in November.

But the real test comes March 4 when Texans across the state show up to make their own personal final endorsements. Although early voting began in Texas on Feb. 19 and ends on Feb 29, Texas Democrats will use both a primary election and precinct caucuses March 4 to allocate the largest single bloc of delegates left on the Democratic presidential nomination calendar.

A total of 193 delegates are at stake. The primary election will choose 126 of them, but it's really 31 separate elections - one in each state Senate district. Each district gets from two to eight delegates based on the Democratic turnout there in past elections.

The delegates in each state Senate district primary will be allocated proportionally among the candidates, with a minimum of 15 percent of the vote required to qualify for any delegates.

State Democratic Party spokesman Hector Nieto said Democrats in low-turnout districts have only themselves to blame for the number of delegates they get.

Another 67 delegates will be awarded based on attendance at precinct caucuses - Texas calls them conventions - held as soon as the primary polls close on March 4.

These operate like the better known Iowa caucuses. They elect delegates to county and state Senate district conventions March 29, which in turn elect delegates to the state Democratic convention June 6 through June 7.

The actual number of caucus delegates each candidate gets depends on the preferences of those who show up at the state convention, but theoretically that allocation is prefigured by the results of the March 4 evening caucuses. So news organizations will report the likely number for each candidate based on the caucus results the evening of March 4, just as they do in Iowa and other caucus states.

"Obviously it is a complex system, but the reason it's so complex is to ensure that everyone is properly represented," Nieto said.

Texas has another 35 so-called superdelegates who are not bound by any of this voting. These delegates

are members of Congress, Democratic national committee members, and leading state party officials. "It's not new," Texas Democratic strategist Ed Martin said of the 20-year-old primary-caucus system. "It's a system that's been supported by Democrats" to reward those who turn out for Democrats in the general election.

Kelley Shannon, Associated Press, and Tuala Williams, The Dallas Examiner, contributed to this report.

X

MAKE THE CALL



X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Paul Tewes on Voting in Ohio (2008-03-04 12:45)

Forwarded from barackboama.com :

Statement from Ohio State Director Paul Tewes

by Sam Graham-Felsen,

Tuesday, March 04, 2008 at 11:18 AM

Ohio State Director Paul Tewes:

Our campaign's goal today is to ensure that any registered voter in the state of Ohio can go to the polls and cast their ballot for their candidate of choice without interference. We understand that the Clinton campaign may want to depress turnout because Barack Obama has closed a 20-point gap over the course of this month as voters across the state got to know him. It has been the hallmark of the Democratic party to educate and protect the rights of voters. If the Clinton campaign disagrees with that principle, they should say so today.

We have received reports from around the state of independents and Republicans who chose to vote in the Democratic primary receiving issue only or Republican ballots instead of the Democratic ballot they were entitled to. We have also had reports that the voter ID requirements have been misstated at various locations, causing some voters to be turned away.

We will take action when necessary to ensure that all eligible voters are able to cast their votes and to have their votes counted.

We will continue to monitor the polls to ensure that all Ohioans who choose to participate in today's election are able to do so regardless of who they choose to vote for.

If you've experienced any problems at the polls, visit our National Voter Protection Center and report them...

X

X

Barack supporters getting out the vote in Ohio:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

CNN projects Barack Obama winning Vermont (2008-03-04 17:03)

Barack Obama has won the first state to close its polls today, Vermont, according to CNN.

Questions about the Texas Caucus? Call 1-866-675-2008



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Ruby (2008-03-04 22:11:00)

Urgent: Ohio Irregularity Strategy.

I am a political amateur, not a strategist, but I feel it is my duty to post this in case that the author of this blog is connected to Senator Obama's campaign.

If the campaign is planning to make any irregularities in poll closing times an issue, please advise it to do so in an intelligent way. Express sadness that voters were disenfranchised, but be conciliatory. Proclaim that you will not divide the Democratic Party with lawsuit after lawsuit. The voting rules are confusing to many, and a suit in Ohio leading to a suit in Florida, Texas, or Michigan could lead to bitterness about both candidates.

Instead make it an issue that the American people cannot possibly see to Obama's detriment. Have it be his rallying call to make sure that early poll closings and lack of voting machines in urban districts do not make the difference against John McCain.

Senator Obama can say something like, "every eligible voter who lines up to exercise their voice, whether in East St. Louis or in West Hollywood, should have that vote counted."

Thinking about Campaign Strategy (2008-03-05 10:24)

After last night's results, I know strongly agree with those pundits who say that Obama will have a hard time winning in state's with strong Democratic establishments, especially those with deep ties to Bill Clinton's administration. After all, the former president helped a lot of people get elected and appointed in those states.

Barack Obama does well in red states and states with strong independent and swing votes. He can also do well in very "liberal" areas that buck the Democratic establishment like the state of Vermont or Barbara Lee's district in Oakland. Now, Barack still leads in both pledged delegates and overall delegates. He leads by about 132 in pledged delegates depending on which estimate you read and he could increase that if he maintains his lead in the Texas Caucus. A win in that caucus would also put his overall lead in delegates to about 100. Barack also still leads the national popular vote although the Texas Caucus sort of muddles up how to tally that count.

However, the results last night bring to question what strategy should be employed in the upcoming states. Pennsylvania is the biggest prize among those states but it also has a very old school system among the Democratic establishment that is hard to break through. So far they seem to be more supportive to Hillary who has been leading also in

the local polls.

Of course, you have to fight in Pennsylvania because you don't want Hillary to run away with such a big state. But how much in terms of resources and time do you commit to that state as opposed to the others?

A lot will depend on an analysis of each of the upcoming states. For example, how many people are still undecided in each state? Are there a lot weak supporters that could be persuaded?

The Obama campaign will have to figure how whether independent and swing voters will be a factor in each state, and how easy it will be to get out the vote. Big states require big resources to turn out voters.

Also, it's all about the pledged delegate count followed in importance of the national popular vote. Winning these pledged delegates and votes means going beyond state strategy to focus on specific districts or counties.

Overall, Obama's team will have to decide on which strategy will reap the most benefits, or return on investment as they say in the corporate world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Randy (2008-03-05 22:47:00)

I am hoping that this 'Dream Team' never becomes reality regardless of who is on top. Barack's entire campaign for "Change" will go the way of the pony express in a hurry with her involved with an administration.

Cris (2008-03-06 11:25:00)

The way the media is covering Senator Clinton's "victory" in Texas is expected, but still biased. It certainly creates an interesting narrative, but at the same time inserts the media's influence over the public perception of the race. Thankfully, it works in the other direction as well, so I'm awaiting the next pro-Obama storyline that will shift the focus back.

Also, feel free to let me know what you think of my blog: Cuban for Obama

David Plouffe: Doing the Math (2008-03-05 14:30)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this email today.

Paul –

Our projections show the most likely outcome of yesterday's elections will be that Hillary Clinton gained 187 delegates, and we gained 183.

That's a net gain of 4 delegates out of more than 370 delegates available from all the states that voted.

For comparison, that's less than half our net gain of 9 delegates from the District of Columbia alone. It's also less than our net gain of 8 from Nebraska , or 12 from Washington State . And it's considerably less than our net gain of 33 delegates from Georgia .

The task for the Clinton campaign yesterday was clear. In order to have a plausible path to the nomination, they needed to score huge delegate victories and cut into our lead.

They failed.

It's clear, though, that Senator Clinton wants to continue an increasingly desperate, increasingly negative – and increasingly expensive – campaign to tear us down.

That's her decision. But it's not stopping John McCain , who clinched the Republican nomination last night, from going on the offensive. He's already made news attacking Barack, and that will only become more frequent in the coming days.

Right now, it's essential for every single supporter of Barack Obama to step up and help fight this two-front battle. In the face of attacks from Hillary Clinton and John McCain , we need to be ready to take them on.

Will you make an online donation of \$25 right now?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

The chatter among pundits may have gotten better for the Clinton campaign after last night, but by failing to cut into our lead, the math – and their chances of winning – got considerably worse.

Today, we still have a lead of more than 150 delegates, and there are only 611 pledged delegates left to win in the upcoming contests.

By a week from today, we will have competed in Wyoming and Mississippi . Two more states and 45 more delegates will be off the table.

But if Senator Clinton wants to continue this, let's show that we're ready.

Make an online donation of \$25 now to show you're willing to fight for this:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

This nomination process is an opportunity to decide what our party needs to stand for in this election.

We can either take on John McCain with a candidate who's already united Republicans and Independents against us, or we can do it with a campaign that's united Americans from all parties around a common purpose.

We can debate John McCain about who can clean up Washington by nominating a candidate who's taken more money from lobbyists than he has, or we can do it with a campaign that hasn't taken a dime of their money because we've been funded by you.

We can present the American people with a candidate who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with McCain on the worst foreign policy disaster of our generation, and agrees with him that George Bush deserves the benefit of the doubt on Iran , or we can nominate someone who opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning and will not support a march to war with Iran .

John McCain may have a long history of straight talk and independent thinking, but he has made the decision in this campaign to offer four more years of the very same policies that have failed us for the last eight.

We need a Democratic candidate who will present the starkest contrast to those failed policies of the past.

And that candidate is Barack Obama .

Please make a donation of \$25 now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

Thank you,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Obama Gains more Delegates in Texas (2008-03-05 22:51)

From barackobama.com:

Obama Wins Delegate Fight in Texas

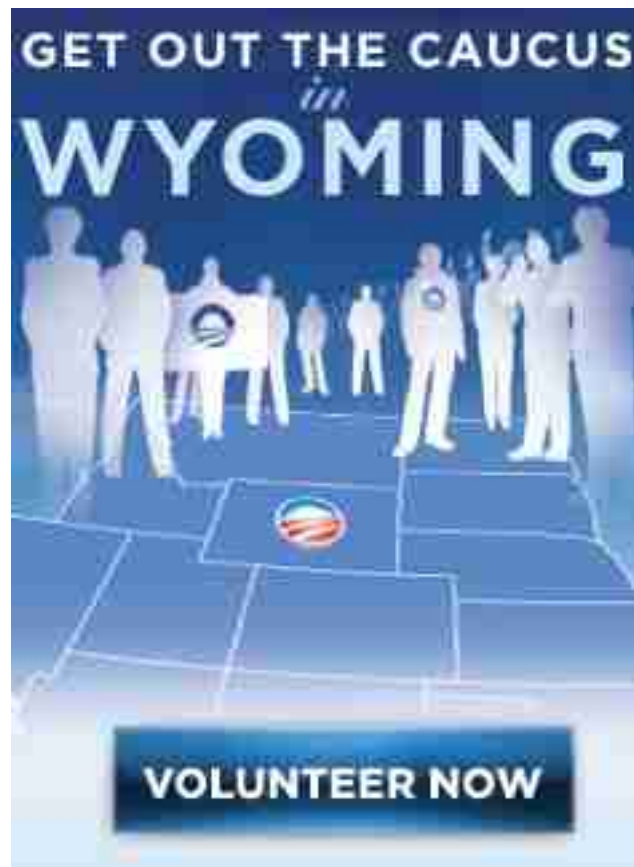
by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Wednesday, March 05, 2008 at 01:29 PM

AUSTIN – Obama Texas State Director Adrian Saenz issued a statement on the projected primary and caucus results that show Senator Obama won more Texas delegates than Senator Clinton.

“By fighting the primary to a near-draw and earning a resounding victory in the caucus, the people of Texas have moved Barack Obama one step closer to claiming the Democratic nomination for president,” said Adrian Saenz. “Texans in both parties and of all ages sent a clear message that the American people are ready for the kind of change that Barack Obama will bring to Washington, DC as our 44th President.”

Because of the close finish, Senator Clinton will likely net only two delegates up-for-grabs in the Texas Primary. Based on a large sample of caucus results in all 31 state senate districts, Senator Obama is projected to post a substantial victory in the Texas caucus and, thereby, net at least seven delegates. This means that Senator Obama will win at least five more pledged delegates from Texas than Senator Clinton.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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ConsortiumNews: Guess What? Obama Is Winning Texas (2008-03-06 08:21)

Here is an interesting article on the Texas race where the counting still has not been completed.



Independent Investigative Journalism Since 1995

Guess What? Obama Is Winning Texas

By Lisa Pease

March 6, 2008 Editor's Note: Hillary Clinton prevailed in the Texas primary, beating Barack Obama by a 51-to-48 margin and claiming 65 delegates to his 61. However, Texas has a two-step process for apportioning its delegates, meaning that Obama had a chance to reverse Clinton's four-delegate net gain in the caucus phase. Historian Lisa Pease examines how this curious twist in the march to the Democratic presidential nomination is turning out:

Tuesday night, as the polls closed, the media proclaimed Barack Obama the winner of Vermont and gave all the other state contests of the day – Ohio, Rhode Island, and Texas – to Hillary Clinton.

But there was one big problem. A Texas-sized problem.

The election results from the Lone Star State's caucuses had only just started coming in.

Texas is the only state in the union that allows people to legally vote twice: once in the primary, and once in their local caucus, or, as they are called in Texas, "precinct conventions."

Roughly two-thirds of the pledged delegates (126) are determined by the outcome of the primary, and the remaining delegates (67) are determined by the results of the caucuses.

Only those who have already voted in the primary are allowed to vote in a caucus.

When the media proclaimed Clinton the victor in Texas, the caucus results were simply not part of the equation. But now that more than 24 hours have passed, something fascinating is happening.

Obama appears to be winning Texas.

Delegates, Not Votes

In the Democratic primary, as in the general election, the popular vote does not determine the winner. In the nominating process, the contest is for delegates, not votes. (In the general election, the winner of a state gets its "electors" who then vote for the president in the Electoral College.)

If the media were consistent regarding the popular-vote winner as the actual winner, they would have given the 2000 presidential election to Al Gore, who defeated George W. Bush by more than a half million votes nationwide.

In Texas, Hillary won 65 delegates in the primary. Obama earned 61 delegates.

But in the caucuses, with 48 percent of the caucus results reported as of early Thursday morning, per the Texas Democratic Party's Web site, Obama has won approximately 56 percent of the caucus votes, leaving Clinton with just under 44 percent.

When you apply these percentages to the 67 delegates, Obama gets 37 delegates from the caucuses, and Clinton gets 30.

If you add the primary and caucus delegates together, Clinton gets 95 delegates, but Obama gets 98, a net gain of three.

If current trends hold, Obama will win Texas by earning the overall delegate victory.

This would hardly be a surprise, given that Obama has won 11 out of the 13 caucuses held so far and 11 states in a row going into last Tuesday.

Clinton had a big win in Ohio, and a substantial victory in Rhode Island. But imagine the narrative had the press noted that she appeared to be losing Texas.

Bill Clinton's words would have echoed throughout the media. He had told an audience in Texas in February, "If she wins Texas and Ohio I think she will be the nominee. If you don't deliver for her, I don't think she can be."

Democratic Party leaders would likely have called upon Clinton to gracefully accept defeat for the good of the party.

Instead, Clinton stood in a shower of confetti and claimed a resounding victory over all three states.

Challenging the Caucuses

Offstage, both the Obama and Clinton campaigns accused each other of trying to game the caucuses.

Tuesday night, Obama's campaign attorney Bob Bauer jumped in on a conference call between the Clinton campaign and reporters to note that the Clinton campaign had a pattern of challenging caucuses. Bauer noted that a lawsuit had been threatened in advance of the Nevada caucuses (although the lawsuit never materialized).

Clinton has made several comments denigrating caucuses in general, noting that people who work during the caucus time can't participate. Different states have different procedures, however, that try to make participation easy.

In Texas, for example, once voters signed in and noted the candidate they were supporting, they were not required to stay for the entire caucus to have their votes counted.

This also isn't the first time the press has denied Obama a delegate victory.

In Nevada, the press crowned Clinton the winner, despite the fact that Obama won the delegate count.

In New Hampshire, Obama was handed a loss, even though the delegates were equally split between Obama and Clinton.

The media's rush to judgment predates this election, of course. In 2004, despite early reports of widespread voter disenfranchisement, Ohio was called for Bush before even a cursory investigation could be started, let alone completed.

In 2000, the media first announced that Al Gore had won Florida. Then they changed their boards and said Florida was too close to call.

Then the election was given to George W. Bush, even though, as Robert Parry reported in 2001, a recount the following year by the New York Times, the Washington Post and other news organizations, demonstrated that, had all the legally cast votes in Florida been counted, Gore would have carried Florida and won the presidential election. [For details, see Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush.]

Why is the media in such a rush to declare a winner?

If we can wait 24 hours to find out who is going home on "American Idol," certainly we can wait much longer to get accurate election data.

And if reporters cannot properly calculate the delegate assignments, shouldn't they wait until the party officials provide the correct count?

Our form of government depends on three principles: adherence to the Constitution as the highest authority in the land; the informed consent of the governed; and an accurate count of the votes cast by the governed. Rushing to judgment in an election is not just careless, it threatens the very foundations of our Democracy.

More immediately, the media's haste is threatening the Democrats' chances of winning in November by prolonging an increasingly bitter contest, even though one candidate (Obama) maintains a nearly unsurpassable lead in delegates.

Lisa Pease is a historian who has studied the JFK assassination and other enduring political mysteries.

To comment at Consortiumblog, click [here](#). (To make a blog comment about this or other stories, you can use your normal e-mail address and password. Ignore the prompt for a Google account.) To comment to us by e-mail, click [here](#). To donate so we can continue reporting and publishing stories like the one you just read, click [here](#).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama raises \$55 million in February (2008-03-06 12:54)

Barack Obama sent an email out today stating that the campaign raised \$55 million in the month of February, with a huge chunk, \$45 million, raised online.

Paul –

I want to add some more news to David's note about the state of the race.

As you know, we've won 27 of 41 contests and have maintained our commanding lead among pledged delegates.

But today I want to share another staggering number: supporters like you donated more than \$55 million to this campaign in the month of February.

That's a humbling achievement, and I am very grateful for your support.

No campaign has ever raised this much in a single month in the history of presidential primaries. But more important than the total is how we did it – more than 90 % of donations were \$100 or less, and more

than 385,000 new donors in February pushed us past our goal of more than 1,000,000 people owning a piece of this campaign.

From the beginning, this campaign has always been funded by a movement of grassroots supporters giving whatever they can afford. And unlike Senator Clinton and Senator McCain, we have never taken money from lobbyists or PACs.

Senator Clinton has decided to use her resources to wage a negative, throw-everything-including-the-kitchen-sink campaign. John McCain has clinched the Republican nomination and is attacking us daily. But I will continue to vigorously defend my record and make the case for change that will improve the lives of all Americans.

I need your help to continue this battle on two separate fronts. Now is the time to step up and own a piece of this campaign.

Please make a donation of \$25 today:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

Thank you for your support,

Barack

Obama raises \$55 million in Feb. (2008-03-06 12:59)

Barack Obama sent an email out today stating that the campaign raised \$55 million in the month of February, with a huge chunk, \$45 million, raised online.

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<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>
Thank you for your support,
Barack

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Calls to Wyoming (2008-03-06 22:06)

From barackobama.com:

2,049,133 Calls

by Christopher Hass,

Thursday, March 06, 2008 at 06:30 PM

In the run-up to March 4th, grassroots supporters from all across the country made over two million calls to potential voters in just ten days – 2,049,133 calls, to be exact. Your efforts helped us close the gap in Ohio, win a commanding victory in Vermont and a delegate win in Texas.

Today one of our online organizers, Nikki Sutton, asked us to pass along a message to all of our supporters who helped take part in this tremendous effort:

We always knew this journey would be long and filled with obstacles, but together we have been able to do what no one ever imagined was possible.

In less than two weeks you helped make over 2 million calls to voters across America.

Thank you for being a part of this movement and making your voice heard.

Now, we need to look to Wyoming in the West and Mississippi in the South and send a clear message that the time for change in our country has come.

Thank you so much for all you do.

- Nikki

Tonight and tomorrow, we're focusing on calls to Wyoming in order to identify supporters and encourage them to get out and caucus on Saturday. For many people in Wyoming this will be their first time caucusing, and your phone calls will be key in helping to educate voters and build support for Barack. What you do makes a difference, and we thank you for it.

Help make calls to Wyoming now.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Nevada: Road to Change (2008-03-07 11:06)

Check out this video of the efforts in Nevada including Barack Obama addressing crowds before the caucuses.
[EMBED]

Obama Appearances in Wyoming

Mar 7 Stand for Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Casper, WY

Mar 7 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Laramie, WY



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wyoming Caucus Info (2008-03-07 15:22)

Here's information on voting in the Wyoming Caucus tomorrow from barackobama.com :

Wyoming Caucus Info: Your Moment Is Now

by Christopher Hass,

Friday, March 07, 2008 at 08:17 AM



The eyes of the country will be on Wyoming tomorrow, as the Wyoming Caucuses become the next stage for this historic presidential race. If you live in Wyoming, this is your chance to stand for change

and make your voice heard. Each county has one caucus location, and start times vary by county. Some caucuses start early tomorrow morning, so please take a moment to double check your caucus location and start time now.

Wyoming Democratic party spokesman Bill Luckett described tomorrow's caucuses as "a once-in-a-generation opportunity." If you live in Wyoming, this is your chance to be part of history.

Take a moment to find your caucus location and time now and make plans to caucus for Barack on Saturday.

Caucusing is easy, and you can learn everything you need to know to caucus below. And be sure to bring as many friends and family with you as you can – just a few extra people could make a difference.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Wyoming Caucus:

Who can caucus?

Any Wyoming Democrat who registered by February 22nd is eligible to participate in the caucus and help change Washington by supporting Barack.

Where and when do I caucus?

Each county has one caucus location. The caucuses are this Saturday, March 8th, but start times vary by county. Some caucuses begin as early as 7:30 AM, so be sure to find your caucus location and time in advance.

When should I arrive at the caucus?

Please arrive at your caucus location at least 30 minutes prior to your caucus start time. Only voters in line when the caucus convention is called to order are allowed to participate.

Do I need to bring anything?

You are not required to have a ID in order to participate, and the caucus is free and open to the public. But you may need to wait outside briefly, so dress appropriately!

Will I be required to speak?

No. You are not required to speak at the event – simply cast your vote for Barack!

Can I leave after casting my vote for Barack?

Yes. After the presidential preference poll is completed, you may leave the caucus if you do not wish to be a delegate.

If you live in or near Laramie, you can see Barack in person tonight at the Stand For Change Rally at the University of Wyoming.

And no matter where you are, you can help out by making calls to Wyoming to identify supporters and encourage them to get out and caucus on Saturday!

Visit WY.BarackObama.com for more news and information from Wyoming.

Help us grow this movement in Wyoming and across the country:

X

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X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

North Carolina also a big state (2008-03-08 07:57)

A lot of media attention has been focused on Pennsylvania with its 158 pledged delegates. However, North Carolina with 115 delegates also looms large on the horizon.

If the delegate count mirrors the popular vote, then a candidate winning North Carolina by 10 percentage points with the opponent taking Pennsylvania by five points will still likely net more pledged delegates.

Obama already has three NC superdelegates –

Rep. G.K. Butterfield, DNC Everett Ward and DNC Dannie Montgomery – compared to Hillary Clinton's single nod (DNC Susan Burgess).

The Illinois senator also has the support of State Treasurer Richard H. Moore, State Sen. Malcolm Graham (D-Charlotte) and Durham Mayor Bill Bell.

North Carolina holds its contest on the same day as Indiana, another important state with the third most pledged delegates of the remaining states. Obama has strong support among Indiana's state legislators, while Hoosier Sen. Evan Bayh supports Clinton.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-03-08 08:59:00)

I hope Barack Obama has plans for a huge rally in the City of Philadelphia. I have worked in Philly 33 years and we hate NEW YORK especially a NEW YORK Senator telling us why we should vote for her. What better place for Barack to make a MAJOR SPEECH on his campaign promise of putting our government back in the hands of the people for the people than in the City of Independence itself. The home of the under dog Rocky Balboa, the home of new American Experience, and the home of the Declaration of Independence. We hate the NY Giants, Mets, and Yankees. Have Obama wear an Eagles hat with someone raising an Eagles flag with the chant of E-A-G-L-E-S Eagles to start the rally and watch the crowd go wild.

Barack Obama wins Wyoming Caucus (2008-03-08 16:53)

Barack Obama has won the Wyoming Caucus with 59 % of the vote compared to 40 % for Hillary Clinton with 96 % of the precincts reporting. Barack should win two more pledged delegates than Hillary in the state.

Also, check out the cover story featuring Michelle Obama in the latest issue of Newsweek.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Sleeping child in Clinton ad was Obama Precinct Captain (2008-03-09 13:00)

Talk about coincidence. The sleeping girl featured in Hillary Clinton's "3 a.m." ad in which she touts herself as tougher than Barack Obama comes from old stock footage used by the production company.

That young girl is now 17 years old and will be eligible to vote in November. She is also an avid Barack supporter and even worked as a precinct captain for the Obama campaign! Check out the YouTube video below:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama Events in Mississippi (2008-03-09 17:55)

Barack in Mississippi

Mar 10 Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

in Columbus, MS

Mar 10 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Jackson, MS

Canvass Kickoff With Gov. Kathleen Sebelius!!!

Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 PM

Home of Leslie and Jim Clauson (Biloxi, MS)

Please join us for a Canvass and Kick Off Rally with Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius!!! The will be meeting at 2pm at the home...

- [View Event Details](#)
- [Signup To Attend This Event](#)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Polling Locations for Mississippi (2008-03-09 21:17)

From barackobama.com :

Mississippi: Find Your Polling Location

by Christopher Hass

, Sunday, March 09, 2008 at 07:06 PM



For the first time in 20 years, Mississippi will have a major role in selecting the Democratic nominee for president. And in such a competitive race, it's crucial that all of our supporters know where to go on Primary Day.

If you live in Mississippi, you can find your polling location now and make sure you're ready to vote for Barack this Tuesday, March 11th.

Polls open at 7:00 a.m., and any registered voter can cast their vote for Barack by requesting a Democratic ballot at their polling location.

For more than a year, we've worked together and built a grassroots movement for change that's sweeping across the country. On Tuesday, the eyes of the nation will turn to Mississippi. This is your moment, your chance to be part of history.

Mississippi Voter Rights:

- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11th. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you must be allowed to vote.
- In Mississippi, any registered voter can vote for Barack on Tuesday by requesting a Democratic ballot at the polls.
- If you believe you were left off the voter list or otherwise prevented from regular voting by error, you must be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.
- No identification is required at the polling place unless you are a first-time voter. If you are a first-time voter in Mississippi who registered by mail and did not provide identification at that time, you should bring a valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows your name and address.
- If you have problems or questions, call our voter hotline at 1-866-675-2008 and press 4.





Obama volunteers prepare for Tuesday's primary.

Pick up the phone!



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Rolling Stone covers Barack Obama (2008-03-09 21:28)

The March 20 issue of Rolling Stone will feature a Barack Obama cover story. The magazine has



three stories on the Illinois senator:

- **Cover Story: Barack Obama's Machinery of Hope**
- **Photo Gallery: Barack Obama, a History in Pictures**
- **An Endorsement: Barack Obama for President**

There's also a photo gallery on the website:



PHOTO GALLERY

Barack Obama: The Presidential Hopeful's History in Photos



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-03-11 11:49:00)

I just wanted to comment that the Spitzer situation has warnings for Barack Obama in that the latter is someone who has very rapidly assumed the status of a political rock star and is at great risk of the same kinds of hazards that has happened to his predecessors. Be warned, Mr. Obama.

Getting out the vote in Mississippi (2008-03-10 15:47)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama at a townhall meeting in Columbus, Mississippi on Mar. 10, 2008.

[EMBED]

Barack is running for president not vice president, and he happens to be in the lead for the Democratic nominee spot.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

rearden215 (2008-03-10 17:10:00)

The race for the White House by the Clintons- and yes, there are two of them running for the same post- appears to be underpinned by one general fallacy: that boomers live forever.

I think that the Clintons still see themselves as wearing an REI backback, Vibram-soled Danners and trudging steadfastly through the perfect and gentle snow of youth to the next poli-sci class at college.

Gotta revolution. Almost cut my hair. Four and twenty. Two cats in the yard. Wave my freak flag high. Paul is dead. Butterflies across our nation. The government. The man.

The impending revolution never amounted to much. Everybody cut their hair in '73, got jobs- temporary, of course- at the branch bank and made fun of every working person besides themselves while smoked up at some cool friend/dude's cabin in the woods on the weekends. When the revolution comes!

Hey, when no one is looking I admire my white patent leather loafers in the full length mirror at Gimbel's and feel the 'tightness' between those reflectors of purity on my feet and the baby blue edwardian suit on my bod. I look pretty good. Hey, disco is stupid but I'll just goof on it and have a good time. Until the revolution comes.

Yeah, it's an Apple II. Oh, that's VisiCalc on there. It does numbers and stuff, kinda like a calculator only more. I use it at the bank- I'm only there temporarily- and we do, like, numbers for idiots with more money than sense... investments? Well, yeah, kinda. But, I'm really not into that financial thing, you know.

Some dude was offering stock in a software company, like the the stuff I use at the bank, only it's for the common man and not 'The Man'. I'm in for 20k shares, top at 23, take me out if it hits 15. Uh, yeah, about the revolution.....just a sec.....'No, all wheel drive is not the same as four wheel drive.'..... you were saying? Right. It's time for The Man to get what's coming.... uh, hold on..... 'Could you honestly see me wearing cross trainers to ANYTHING in Westchester county?. Didn't think so.'

I am all about winning, you know. The guys above me are such dolts, always whining about their retirement plans- I'm here to make things happen. Stir shit up. Get rid of the fat middle management layer. Did you notice that I work out during lunchtime?

While listening to Tom Peters tapes on my Walkman? Revolution?

Either get with this PC thing, or get out.

I bought Redhat at two dollars and sold it at five hundred. Revolution. Thank you for not smoking in the Grand Wagoneer.

Vente.

Grande.

Baby Einsteins.

Knitted brow. Every thing is an outrage.

I just moved the assembly offshore to China. Those morons on the assembly floor wanted a raise, I said, 'I will give this whole thing to someone in the Orient who cares more about the product than themselves, if you make me. Don't make me do it.'

They made me do it. To retaliate I bought a Cayenne. Built a seven thousand square foot house complete with an outdoor kitchen and a fire feature. Irish setter. Oliver Peoples glasses frames. Indifferent khakis. Turnbull & Asser. Carrying a hundred people on my back- those dolts who just aren't winners and risk takers like me.

Then, the revolution came.

Change. It is not a bad thing, to hear the Clintons talk, but, the Clintons are now 'The Man'; they are now the 'Government'. They are old but just won't admit it-Danners notwithstanding. The Clintons just don't get it.

Comes a black man with no experience and no credentials, to hear the Clintons talk, and this black man is coming forward like Kennedy. Not Jack, but Robert.

Boomers don't live forever. Just until the revolution comes.

The revolution has come.

The end of Boomervision is near. Temporary, of course.

Mississippi: Our Moment is Now (2008-03-11 07:17)

From barackobama.com:

Mississippi: Your Moment is Now

by Christopher Hass

, Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 04:48 AM



Today, for the first time in 20 years, Mississippi will play a major role in selecting the Democratic nominee for president. All across the state voters are heading to the polls to add their voices to the millions calling for change.

Polls are open today from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and any registered voter can cast their vote for Barack by requesting a Democratic ballot at their polling location.

Find your polling location now, and check the information below to make sure that you know how and where to vote for Barack today.

For more than a year, we've worked together and built a grassroots movement for change that's sweeping across the country. Today, the eyes of the nation turn to Mississippi. This is your moment, your chance to be part of history.

Mississippi Voter Rights:

- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11th. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you must be allowed to vote.
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- If you have problems or questions, call our voter hotline at 1-866-675-2008 and press 4.



Barack Obama in Jackson, Mississippi on March 11, 2008.

[EMBED]

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Fox calls Mississippi for Obama (2008-03-11 17:12)

Still waiting for MSNBC and CNN, but just heard that Fox News has called the race in Mississippi for Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama: Victories and Attacks (2008-03-11 19:53)

Barack Obama sent out this email today following the results in Mississippi.

Paul –

It's tough to think of two states more different than Wyoming and Mississippi.

But we won Wyoming on Saturday, and we just learned that we won Mississippi by a large margin tonight.

Between those two states, we picked up enough delegates to erase the gains by Senator Clinton last Tuesday and add to our substantial lead in earned delegates. And in doing so we showed the strength and breadth of this movement.

But just turn on the news and you'll see that Senator Clinton continues to run an expensive, negative campaign against us. Each day her campaign launches a new set of desperate attacks.

They're not just attacking me; they're attacking you.

Over the weekend, an aide to Senator Clinton attempted to diminish the overwhelming number of contests we've won by referring to places we've prevailed as "boutique" states and our supporters as the "latte-sipping crowd."

I'm not sure how those terms apply to Mississippi and Wyoming – or Virginia, Iowa, Louisiana, or Idaho for that matter.

I know that our victories in all of these states demonstrate a rejection of this kind of petty, divisive campaigning.

But the fact remains that Senator Clinton's campaign will continue to attack us using the same old Washington playbook. And now that John McCain is the Republican nominee, we are forced to campaign on two fronts.

It's up to you to fight back. Please make a donation of \$25 today:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

Thank you,

Barack



[EMBED]

Barack wins in Mississippi!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hillary should concede and unite the party (2008-03-12 10:06)

Jake Tapper on the ABC News blog has an interesting post suggesting that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is covertly endorsing Sen. Barack Obama with her recent statements.

Pelosi speaking in a interview with New England Cable News said that a "dream ticket" of any kind is "impossible." "I think that the Clinton administration has fairly ruled that out by proclaiming that Senator McCain would be a better Commander in Chief than Obama," Pelosi said.

According to Tapper, Pelosi's views diverge from the triangulation tactics of the Clintons, and she likely seems Hillary as driving down the Democratic ticket, particularly in Red States. This could threaten her own position as leader of the House.

Californians have sensed the same thing based on Obama's endorsements from key Pelosi allies.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama talks with Gamesa employees in Fairless, Pennsylvania.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Countering the Spin (2008-03-12 14:53)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this email appeal today.

Dear Paul,

When we won Iowa , the Clinton campaign said it's not the number of states you win, it's "a contest for delegates."

When we won a significant lead in delegates, they said it's really about which states you win.

When we won South Carolina , they discounted the votes of African-Americans.

When we won predominantly white, rural states like Idaho , Utah , and Nebraska , they said those didn't count because they won't be competitive in the general election.

When we won in Washington State, Wisconsin, and Missouri – general election battlegrounds where polls show Barack is a stronger candidate against John McCain – the Clinton campaign attacked those voters as "latte-sipping" elitists.

And now that we've won more than twice as many states, the Clinton spin is that only certain states really count.

But the facts are clear.

For all their attempts to discount, distract, and distort, we have won more delegates, more states, and more votes.

Meanwhile, more than half of the votes that Senator Clinton has won so far have come from just five states. And in four of these five states, polls show that Barack would be a stronger general election candidate against McCain than Clinton.

We're ready to take on John McCain . But we also need to build operations in places like Pennsylvania , Indiana , North Carolina , and Oregon that will hold their primaries in April and May.

Barack Obama needs your support to fight this two-front battle. Please make a donation of \$25 right now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

With our overwhelming victory in the Mississippi primary yesterday, our lead in earned delegates is now wider than it was on March 3rd, before the contests in Ohio and Texas .

And thanks to your help, we have dramatically increased our support among so-called "superdelegates" – Governors, Members of Congress, and party officials who have a vote at the Democratic National Convention in August.

As the number of remaining delegates dwindles, Hillary Clinton 's path to the nomination seems less and less plausible.

Now that Mississippi is behind us, we move on to the next ten contests. The Clinton campaign would like to focus your attention only on Pennsylvania – a state in which they have already declared that they are "unbeatable."

But Pennsylvania is only one of those 10 remaining contests, each important in terms of allocating delegates and ultimately deciding who our nominee will be.

We have activated our volunteer networks in each of these upcoming battlegrounds. We're putting staff on the ground and building our organization everywhere.

The key to victory is not who wins the states that the Clinton campaign thinks are important. The key to victory is realizing that every vote and every voter matters.

Throughout this entire process, the Clinton campaign has cherry-picked states, diminished caucuses, and moved the goal posts to create a shifting, twisted rationale for why they should win the nomination despite winning fewer primaries, fewer states, fewer delegates, and fewer votes.

We must stand up to the same-old Washington politics. Barack has won twice as many states, large and small, in every region of the country – many by landslide margins. And this movement is expanding the base of the Democratic Party by attracting new voters in record numbers and bringing those who had lost hope back into the political process.

Push back against the spin and help build the operation to win more delegates in these upcoming contests:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/math>

Thank you for your support and for everything you've done to build a movement that is engaging voters and winning contests in every part of this country.

David

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America



[EMBED]

Barack Obama receives endorsements of Flag Officers from U.S. Armed Forces.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



President's Most Important Duty (2008-03-12 21:23)

Hillary Clinton often says that the president's most important duty is to protect the people of the United States citing the presidential oath of office.

I'm not going to argue that she is wrong on the most important presidential duty, but the oath of office does not even mention protecting the American people.

The oath of office is found in Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, **preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States .**"

Notice that the oath mentions preserving, protecting and defending the "Constitution of the United States." Yes, that includes things like habeus corpus and the Bill of Rights.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Philadelphia Black Clergy endorse Barack Obama (2008-03-13 09:18)

The Seattle Times reports that the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity has endorsed Barack Obama for president.



Philly Black Clergy Endorse Obama
Related

- Presidential delegate tracker
- Presidential candidate tracker
- Presidential campaign spending

The members of a black clergy group in Philadelphia have endorsed Sen. Barack Obama in the Democratic primary for president.

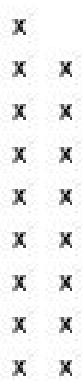
The president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, the Rev. Ellis Washington, says his group voted overwhelmingly in support of Obama. The organization represents about 200 churches in the Philadelphia area.

Washington says the black clergy’s support of Obama over Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was much more than a racial issue. He says the Illinois senator’s ability to inspire young people and his status as a man of faith played a big role in the endorsement.

Washington says Obama’s far-reaching appeal outweighed the popularity of the Clintons in the black community.

The group announced the endorsement Thursday. The state primary is April 22.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Philadephia Black Clergy endorse Barack Obama (2008-03-13 09:18)

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Philly Black Clergy Endorse Obama
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NC Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue endorses Barack Obama (2008-03-13 09:24)

North Carolina Lieutenant Governor and gubernatorial candidate Beverly Perdue endorsed Barack Obama on Wednesday.

"She thinks both candidates are exceptionally well-qualified, but will be voting for Obama," campaign adviser Mac McCorkle said.

Michelle Obama in Pennsylvania

Mar 13 Rally with Michelle Obama

in Abington, PA

Mar 13 Rally with Michelle Obama

in Villanova, PA

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-03-13 09:24)

North Carolina Lieutenant Governor and gubernatorial candidate Beverly Perdue endorsed Barack Obama today.

Barack Obama unveils New Housing Crisis Plan (2008-03-13 18:06)

From from barackobama.com :

Obama Announces Support for Plan to Address Housing Crisis

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 02:07 PM

Chicago, IL – Senator Obama released the following statement on joining with Senator Chris Dodd to introduce legislation for a new FHA Housing Security Program.

"The subprime lending crisis continues to threaten the American Dream for millions of working families. Over two million households are at risk of foreclosure. The impact on our economy as a whole has been devastating, with a substantial and disturbing deterioration in our job market, housing market, and credit market in recent days. The decline in the housing market has left millions of people with mortgages that are larger than their homes are worth. Many Americans are choosing to walk away from their mortgages, which worsens the foreclosure problem, hurts property values for entire neighborhoods, and also substantially aggravates the credit crisis among lenders. That is why we urgently need a new strategy that allows homeowners to obtain mortgages with reasonable and fair terms, prevents foreclosures, and eases the credit crunch.

"It is past time for the federal government to take direct and decisive action. To provide immediate relief, I am proud to join with Chris Dodd – the Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee – to introduce legislation creating a new FHA Housing Security Program, which will provide meaningful incentives for lenders to buy or refinance existing mortgages, and to convert them into stable 30-year fixed mortgages so that homeowners facing foreclosure can keep their homes. This will provide a federal backstop for lenders to reduce the principal of loans that are priced higher than the value of a home so that they are affordable for homeowners. It is not a bailout for lenders or investors who gambled recklessly. It is not a windfall for borrowers. Instead, the Dodd-Obama bill is a responsible and fair way to help bring an end to the foreclosure crisis facing the country.

"This is part of my comprehensive mortgage agenda, which includes resources for pre-foreclosure counseling, a tax break to working families on their mortgage interest payments, and tough penalties on fraudulent lenders. We must provide immediate relief to American families and to the American economy, while also taking the necessary steps to prevent this crisis from happening again."

[EMBED]

Barack Obama explains how to register for the Pennsylvania primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Registering voters in Pennsylvania today (2008-03-14 10:59)

From barackobama.com :

Find the Voter Registration Drive Near You

by Caitlin Harvey,

Friday, March 14, 2008 at 07:43 AM

✖ If we've learned one thing from this race, it's that every vote – and every voice – matters. Here in Pennsylvania, there are hundreds of thousands of people who need your help to make their voices heard – people who want to support Barack in the Democratic primary on April 22nd, but aren't registered as Democrats.

Anyone who wants to vote in the Democratic primary must be registered as a Democrat by March 24th. This weekend, we're holding voter registration drives all across Pennsylvania to help every eligible Obama supporter in Pennsylvania get ready to vote for Barack in the April 22nd primary.

Find the Voter Registration Drive near you and join us this weekend. No prior political experience is required. Sign up to talk to people in your community and register new Democrats before the March 24th deadline.

If you live in Western Pennsylvania, join us at the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade to show your support for Barack, and help register new voters before the deadline after the parade.

Here are the details:

O'Bama St. Patrick's Day

Courtyard next to USX Building

600 Grant St.

Pittsburgh, PA

8:30 a.m.

Sign up now:

<http://pa.barackobama.com/StPatricks>

Together, we can help the momentum continue in Pennsylvania!

✖

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

MoveOn Video Contest: Obama in 30 Seconds (2008-03-14 19:00)

MoveOn.org is holding an Obama ad contest called "Obama in 30 Seconds."

The contest, which is not linked with the official Barack Obama campaign, asks Obama supporters to create a 30 second ad in support of Barack's candidacy.









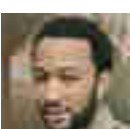



Submissions are accepted from Mar. 27 to Apr. 1, and the winners are announced on Apr. 17. The top prize winner will have their ad aired nationally and get a \$20,000 gift certificate for video equipment.



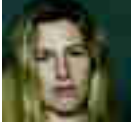
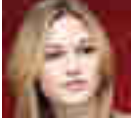
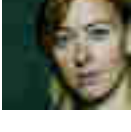


You can find more info here. Check out the judges for the contest:

The Judges



- Ben Affleck

-  Steve Buscemi
-  Matt Damon
-  Donna Edwards
-  Michael Franti
-  Adrian Grenier
-  Ted Hope
-  Jesse Jackson
-  Rory Kennedy
-  John Legend
-  Lawrence Lessig
-  Moby
-  Markos Moulitsas

-  Tom Ortenberg
-  Heather Rae
-  James Schamus
-  Russell Simmons
-  DJ Spooky
-  Ricki Stern
-  Julia Stiles
-  Oliver Stone
-  Annie Sundberg
-  Eddie Vedder
-  Naomi Wolf

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Obama opening office in Terre Haute, Indiana (2008-03-15 07:59)

WTHI-TV reports that Barack Obama is opening up an office in Terre Haute, Indiana. Obama's efforts in red states strengthens the Democratic Party for the future. You can only make progress in red states when you fight for those states.



Barack Obama will be setting up a campaign office right here in Terre Haute. Proving even more how important the Hoosier state as well as the Wabash Valley is in the 2008 Presidential Election.

"I think it's going to be an exciting time between now and May 6th in Terre Haute," said Andrew Conner. In about one week, one of these downtown buildings will be the new home for Barack Obama's campaign office. Indiana's primary is not known for casting crucial votes, but Obama's decision to head to Valley shows Terre Haute's got something to offer.

"I think that the candidates feel like this area has something of value to them," James Mann, Terre Haute South Teacher.

"The candidates are taking notice of Terre Haute."

With several local colleges and universities, Terre Haute is a great place to target voters especially young ones.

"We've been doing tons and tons of voter registrations we've had over 200 kids register to vote."

Right now Obama campaign officials are looking at a few downtown Terre Haute properties. The office is slated to open on March 24th.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

10 Iowa Delegates choose Barack Obama (2008-03-15 20:02)

From barackobama.com :

Big News: Obama Gains 7 More Delegates in Iowa

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 04:35 PM

Big news, everybody – Obama gained 7 more delegates today in Iowa!

Campaign Manager David Plouffe just sent this note to our hard-working Iowa staffers. We thought we'd share it with you...

Dear Team Iowa,

Another contest in Iowa just showed the hard work and dedication you put into the state. For those of you that worked the caucuses, you gave momentum to put us in the great position we are in. For those of you that came back for the county conventions, you worked your magic again, along with the precinct captains and supporters to squeeze 7 more delegates out of Iowa for Barack (there may still be one up for grabs).

Thanks for all of your hard work. I know you are all tired, but dig deep, remember the way you felt after the Iowa Caucuses, and the way staff there feels again tonight. -David

Let's keep the momentum going. Who's ready to spend a chunk of your Sunday making calls? Your voices have proven to be a critical difference in tight races across the country. This movement needs to step up – visit My.BarackObama.com/call and let us know how it goes in the comments.

In case you ever doubted... Yes, we can.

UPDATE: Obama for America campaign manager David Plouffe today released the following statement on the results of the Iowa county conventions:

Iowans went to the county conventions today to make clear that they want a Democratic nominee who will bring real change to this country and who will be the strongest candidate against John McCain. With all of the results in, Senator Obama earned 25 delegates, while Senator Clinton earned 14. Senator Obama netted ten delegates tonight. For comparison purposes, Senator Clinton netted nine delegates in Ohio.



Obama supporters volunteer while celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

[EMBED]

Barack speaks in Plainfield, Indiana on unifying America.

[EMBED]

Barack reflects on Bobby Kennedy's famous speech in Indianapolis.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-03-17 08:25:00)

Go obama Go. My view of why obama should win.

<http://kasunh.wordpress.com/2008/03/16/why-obama-should-win/>

Obama nets 3 more delegates in California (2008-03-15 21:22)

In addition to the net gain of 10 delegates from the Iowa Caucus, the Associated Press reported late Saturday that final counts show Barack Obama netting an additional three delegates in California.

Hillary Clinton picked up two additional California delegates compared to five for Obama. Thus, Obama netted an additional 13 delegates on Saturday.

Barack should have an overall lead in pledged delegates of 164.

MAKE THE CALL



HELP CALL PENNSYLVANIA NOW.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Ann Dunham Soetoro: Free-Spirited Wanderer Who Set Obama's Path (2008-03-16 14:13)

The New York Times has an excellent article on the life of Barack Obama's mother, Ann Dunham Soetoro.

A Free-Spirited Wanderer Who Set Obama's Path

By JANNY SCOTT

Published: March 14, 2008



Courtesy of the Obama Family

Ms. Soetoro on her Indonesian trip.

The Long Run

A Mother's Influence

This is part of a series of articles about the life and careers of contenders for the 2008 Republican and Democratic presidential nominations.



[Enlarge This Image](#)

Courtesy of the Obama family

In the capsule version of the Barack Obama story, his mother is simply the white woman from Kansas. The phrase comes coupled alliteratively to its counterpart, the black father from Kenya. On the campaign trail, he has called her his “single mom.” But neither description begins to capture the unconventional life of Stanley Ann Dunham Soetoro, the parent who most shaped Mr. Obama.

Kansas was merely a way station in her childhood, wheeling westward in the slipstream of her furniture-salesman father. In Hawaii, she married an African student at age 18. Then she married an Indonesian, moved to Jakarta, became an anthropologist, wrote an 800-page dissertation on peasant blacksmithing in Java, worked for the Ford Foundation, championed women’s work and helped bring microcredit to the world’s poor.

She had high expectations for her children. In Indonesia, she would wake her son at 4 a.m. for correspondence courses in English before school; she brought home recordings of Mahalia Jackson, speeches by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And when Mr. Obama asked to stay in Hawaii for high school rather than return to Asia, she accepted living apart — a decision her daughter says was one of the hardest in Ms. Soetoro’s life.

“She felt that somehow, wandering through uncharted territory, we might stumble upon something that will, in an instant, seem to represent who we are at the core,” said Maya Soetoro-Ng, Mr. Obama’s half-sister. “That was very much her philosophy of life — to not be limited by fear or narrow definitions, to not build walls around ourselves and to do our best to find kinship and beauty in unexpected places.”

Ms. Soetoro, who died of ovarian cancer in 1995, was the parent who raised Mr. Obama, the Illinois senator running for the Democratic presidential nomination. He barely saw his father after the age of 2. Though it is impossible to pinpoint the imprint of a parent on the life of a grown child, people who knew Ms. Soetoro well say they see her influence unmistakably in Mr. Obama.

They were close, her friends and his half-sister say, though they spent much of their lives with oceans or continents between them. He would not be where he is today, he has said, had it not been for her. Yet he has also made some different choices — marrying into a tightly knit African-American family rooted in the South Side of Chicago, becoming a churchgoing Christian, publicly recounting his search for his identity as a black man.

Some of what he has said about his mother seems tinged with a mix of love and regret. He has said his biggest mistake was not being at her bedside when she died. And when The Associated Press asked the candidates about “prized keepsakes” — others mentioned signed baseballs, a pocket watch, a “trophy wife” — Mr. Obama said his was a photograph of the cliffs of the South Shore of Oahu in Hawaii where his mother’s ashes were scattered.

“I think sometimes that had I known she would not survive her illness, I might have written a different book — less a meditation on the absent parent, more a celebration of the one who was the single constant in my life,” he wrote in the preface to his memoir, “Dreams From My Father.” He added, “I know that she was the kindest, most generous spirit I have ever known, and that what is best in me I owe to her.”

In a campaign in which Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, has made liberal use of his globe-trotting 96-year-old mother to answer suspicions that he might be an antique at 71, Mr. Obama, who declined to be interviewed for this article, invokes his mother’s memory sparingly. In one television advertisement, she appears fleetingly — porcelain-skinned, raven-haired and holding her toddler son. “My mother died of cancer at 53,” he says in the ad, which focuses on health care. “In those last painful months, she was more worried about paying her medical bills than getting well.”

‘A Very, Very Big Thinker’

He has described her as a teenage mother, a single mother, a mother who worked, went to school and raised children at the same time. He has credited her with giving him a great education and confidence in his ability to do the right thing. But, in interviews, friends and colleagues of Ms. Soetoro shed light on a side of her that is less well known.

“She was a very, very big thinker,” said Nancy Barry, a former president of Women’s World Banking, an international network of microfinance providers, where Ms. Soetoro worked in New York City in the early 1990s. “I think she was not at all personally ambitious, I think she cared about the core issues, and I think she was not afraid to speak truth to power.”

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Anonymous (2008-03-16 17:09:00)

Hillary’s constituents in New York state are beginning to ask her to step aside:

<http://start-a-petition.com/showPetition.asp?p=DearHillary>

Barack Obama releases statement on Economy (2008-03-17 10:36)

Barack Obama released this statement today on the state of the economy:

The news coming from Wall Street today has confirmed our fears that the financial fallout from the mortgage crisis would spillover into the wider economy. Months ago, I went to Wall Street and said that our capital markets could not function without the confidence and trust of the public. I said that Wall Street could not succeed while the rest of America struggled. Now, as the Federal Reserve does its best to bring stability to the market, we must focus on what we can do to restore the public's confidence in the market and help the millions of Americans who are worried about their jobs, their homes, and their financial future.

History will not judge President Bush kindly for his failure to act in a way that could've prevented or alleviated this economic crisis. There have been few Administrations so out of touch with the concerns and the struggles of working Americans and so beholden to the lobbyists and special interests who blocked any kind of regulatory oversight of the financial sector. Whether it was subprime lending, credit cards, or bankruptcy laws, Washington has allowed these special interests to prevent sensible policy that could have prevented the most serious effects of the current predicament.

Nowhere has the failure been more pronounced than the President's refusal to address the plight of homeowners and Main Street businesses that lie at the heart of the turmoil right now. After months of inaction and half-measures, the President traveled to New York last week to say that there is a danger in doing too much and implied that doing nothing would be preferable. His principle policy to address the financial crunch that now threatens millions of Americans with foreclosure and thousands of business with bankruptcy is to extend his tax cuts for the wealthiest few. It's a policy so divorced from the reality facing the American people and the American economy that it would be laughable if it weren't so frightening.

At this moment, we must come together and act to address the housing crisis that set this downturn in motion and continues to eat away at the public's confidence in the market. We should pass the legislation I put forward with my colleague, Chris Dodd, to create meaningful incentives for lenders to buy or refinance existing mortgages so that Americans facing foreclosure can keep their homes. This is not a bailout for lenders or investors who gambled recklessly, and it is not a windfall for borrowers. It is a fair and responsible way to help stem the foreclosure crisis.

Many other steps will be required to reverse this downturn in the weeks to come. It will require the efforts of those in the financial community; of the Federal Reserve; of Congress, and the White House. And it will also require a renewed confidence that we can meet this challenge. We are the United States of America, and each time we have faced moments of adversity in the past – some much greater than this – we have summoned a spirit of cooperation and innovation to emerge stronger and more prosperous than we were before. But it will take work, it will take time, and it will take leadership that recognizes that we are all part of the same economy, and that economy must work for every American in order for America to prosper in the 21st century.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama: More Voices (2008-03-17 17:38)

Barack Obama sent out this email message today encouraging supporters to help add more people to the voter rolls.

Dear Paul,

✕ When Michelle and I decided to enter this race more than a year ago, one of our hopes was to bring people back into the political process.

Like so many Americans, we'd been exhausted and frustrated by the slash-and-burn politics that had come to dominate our elections. Smallness and pettiness were the rule, not the exception. And it seemed like every day, more and more Americans were tuning out their democracy.

This election, we're seeing something different.

Nearly as many people have participated in the Democratic primary this year than in 2000 and 2004 combined. And there are still ten contests left to go.

As we enter the final stretch of elections, we have a unique opportunity to shape the outcome – and the outcome of elections up and down the ballot this November.

The last day to register new voters in Pennsylvania is March 24th. In North Carolina and Indiana , it's in early April. And in West Virginia and Kentucky , the voter registration deadline is a little more than a month from today.

So today we're launching a national initiative to register an unprecedented number of voters in each of the upcoming states.

No matter where you live, you can help get people registered in the upcoming states. You can make phone calls from home, reach out to people you know in these states, or even sign up to travel to one of these states to be on the ground for this massive voter registration effort.

Learn more about what you can do to bring as many voters as possible into the political process:

<http://my.barackobama.com/morevoices>

Young voters have shaped this presidential primary like no other.

In Iowa , South Carolina , Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mississippi , the youth vote has tripled since 2004. And in all other states it has reached record levels. And these young voters are breaking 2-to-1 Democratic.

Statistics show that if we can get young people to vote Democratic now, they are far more likely to vote regularly – and vote for Democrats – throughout their lives.

So by getting involved and helping to register voters, you're not just increasing the number of voters in this election. You're increasing the number of people who will be engaged Democratic voters for the rest of their lives.

Sign up to help bring More Voices into the Democratic primary today:

<http://my.barackobama.com/morevoices>

More than fifteen years ago, after I finished law school, I came back to Chicago and led a voter registration drive on the South Side.

For months, our passionate and hardworking volunteers pounded the pavement – registering folks everywhere they could, from barber shops to grocery stores to apartment building lobbies to local fairs. One particularly enthusiastic woman – who until then had never been involved in politics – made it her personal goal to register 100 voters a day, and ultimately registered 3,000 new voters.

In the end, we made a real difference in Illinois . Our team registered more than 150,000 new voters, not only impacting local elections, but helping to shift the balance in state and national races as well. Illinois went from voting Republican in 1988 to Democratic in 1992.

That lesson has informed how we've run this campaign. And now we have an unbelievable opportunity to apply it on a massive scale.

When new or returning voters participate in the Democratic primary, they are far more likely to come back and participate in the general election.

That's not just good for presidential candidates; it's good for Democrats up and down the ticket. More engaged, committed Democratic voters in the primaries means more votes this November in all fifty states – from competitive statewide races to state legislative and city council seats everywhere.

You can make a difference right now. Encourage someone to register in time to participate in the presidential race in their state.

Learn more and get involved here:

<http://my.barackobama.com/morevoices>

Thanks for all your hard work,

Barack

P.S. – Here's an example of how you can get involved right now.

In Pennsylvania , Independent voters must register as Democrats by March 24th in order to vote in the primary. One supporter made calls this weekend and reached 10 Independent voters who wanted to vote for us – four of whom needed information about how to register.

Our team has created an online tool that provides all the information you need to make calls from home.

Get started now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callpa>



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bill Foster supports Barack Obama (2008-03-17 20:39)

[EMBED]

Newly-elected House Rep. Bill Foster from Illinois tells why he's supporting Barack Obama and his movement for change.

Barack Obama in Charlotte, NC

Join Barack Obama for a Town Hall in Charlotte, North Carolina on Wednesday, March 19th. The event will be free and open to the public.

Stand for Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

Grady Cole Center
310 N. Kings Drive
Charlotte, NC 28204

906

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Doors Open: 1:30 p.m.

Program Begins: 3:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are required and a photo ID is required. Seating is available on a first-come, first served-basis.

Public Parking is accessible from N. Kings Drive and E 7th Street and is available in Memorial Stadium Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and the CPCC gravel lot on Armory Drive. Additional parking will be directed on site. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

For security reasons, do not bring bags. No signs or banners permitted. Please limit personal items.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-03-17 22:31:00)

I feel strongly enough to write. I am a Democrat (who just changed to an Independent in this primary) who is so disillusioned with what Obama presented to the American public as his initial persona - and as time has evolved and we have had an opportunity to learn more about this young and untapped politician - it turns out that he has as much luggage and ugly inflammatory traits that he carefully hid and packaged as do the older seasoned politicians that he has attacked earlier in the year. And as the primaries rolled on and he accumulated delegates - which might make him the imminent Democratic candidate- he may be beatable by the Republicans because now he has exposed himself as a young Washington politician with little to no political savvy and lot of political liability. Is that the best candidate to go into the election with? And all the media is already calling for an implosion of the party and possible street riots if the superdelegates go with strategy (possibly giving delegates to Hillary for the good of the general election) vs. strictly by the outcome of the primaries. Doesn't the media have a responsibility to tone it down and not inflame the situation? Don't they think that you can indeed influence the mood of the American people - because they can. As surely as our politicians have a responsibility to be honest and open with this nation - so does the media in their reporting of events. The media have become tabloid-like in their coverage of events - the higher they can escalate the drama - the better! The coverage of Barack Obama has been timely and necessary - the arguments pro and con seemingly falling almost across racial divides. Clearly we haven't progressed as far as a nation as we thought just 3 weeks ago. But obviously - his "spiritual leader" hasn't progressed from his divisive writings of the '60's - and can't get beyond his hateful rhetoric that endorses racial, cultural and spiritual separateness. This is not what any religion in any format should teach. And isn't this why we rant about Islamists' as Americans - (I am not implying that Obama is an Islamist - I am just drawing a corollary between points for illustration) - that they teach and spew such a repugnant message of separateness and divergent belief systems and perspectives that we just can't find our way to a common ground. I was mortified tonight on a TV broadcast to hear someone comment during an interview (and I believe it was a fellow parishioner) that they thought that the Reverend Wright felt he had to keep the struggle of the African American on the front burner - to not let his congregation forget where they came from. What purpose does this serve in 2008? Does this not just keep racial division alive and current? Should I be concerned as a white American that if Barack Obama is elected that I will be seeing reparations become a reality in my lifetime? Barack states that he has no ties to lobbyist and special interest groups - but I beg to differ at this juncture. As I watch this develop - I am confident that his lobbyist and special interest groups are sitting in those pews every Sunday or are preaching from that pulpit and that does indeed worry me as much as Mike Huckabee's affiliation did to his church or Pat Robertsons influence in the past, Jerry Falwell etc. Barack Obama's long-term relationship with Reverend Wright is not only indicative of his tolerance and tacit acceptance of this un-American propaganda, but goes to his ability to govern the greatest Nation in the world. He is not the American he presented himself to be and not the American we need for our next sitting president. This is the message that needs to be getting out on the blogs - that America is concerned and will not be happy with this man as the Democratic candidate.

Jedidiah (2008-03-18 08:52:00)

Obama Speech Recap Obama Race Speech

Barack Obama: "A More Perfect Union" (2008-03-18 06:57)

Here is the speech delivered by Barack Obama today in Philadelphia addressing the racial tone of the campaign.

As Prepared for Delivery... "We the people, in order to form a more perfect union."

Two hundred and twenty one years ago, in a hall that still stands across the street, a group of men gathered and, with these simple words, launched America's improbable experiment in democracy. Farmers and scholars; statesmen and patriots who had traveled across an ocean to escape tyranny and persecution finally made real their declaration of independence at a Philadelphia convention that lasted through the spring of 1787.

The document they produced was eventually signed but ultimately unfinished. It was stained by this nation's original sin of slavery, a question that divided the colonies and brought the convention to a stalemate until the founders chose to allow the slave trade to continue for at least twenty more years, and to leave any final resolution to future generations.

Of course, the answer to the slavery question was already embedded within our Constitution – a Constitution that had at its very core the ideal of equal citizenship under the law; a Constitution that promised its people liberty, and justice, and a union that could be and should be perfected over time.

And yet words on a parchment would not be enough to deliver slaves from bondage, or provide men and women of every color and creed their full rights and obligations as citizens of the United States. What would be needed were Americans in successive generations who were willing to do their part – through protests and struggle, on the streets and in the courts, through a civil war and civil disobedience and always at great risk – to narrow that gap between the promise of our ideals and the reality of their time. This was one of the tasks we set forth at the beginning of this campaign – to continue the long march of those who came before us, a march for a more just, more equal, more free, more caring and more prosperous America. I chose to run for the presidency at this moment in history because I believe deeply that we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together – unless we perfect our union by understanding that we may have different stories, but we hold common hopes; that we may not look the same and we may not have come from the same place, but we all want to move in the same direction – towards a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

This belief comes from my unyielding faith in the decency and generosity of the American people. But it also comes from my own American story.

I am the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas. I was raised with the help of a white grandfather who survived a Depression to serve in Patton's Army during World War II and a white grandmother who worked on a bomber assembly line at Fort Leavenworth while he was overseas. I've gone to some of the best schools in America and lived in one of the world's poorest nations. I am married to a black American who carries within her the blood of slaves and slaveowners – an inheritance we pass on to our two precious daughters. I have brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, uncles and cousins, of every race and every hue, scattered across three continents, and for as long as I live, I will never forget that in no other country on Earth is my story even possible.

It's a story that hasn't made me the most conventional candidate. But it is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than the sum of its parts – that out of many, we are truly one.

Throughout the first year of this campaign, against all predictions to the contrary, we saw how hungry the American people were for this message of unity. Despite the temptation to view my candidacy through a purely racial lens, we won commanding victories in states with some of the whitest populations in the country. In South Carolina, where the Confederate Flag still flies, we built a powerful coalition of African Americans and white Americans.

This is not to say that race has not been an issue in the campaign. At various stages in the campaign, some commentators have deemed me either "too black" or "not black enough." We saw racial tensions

bubble to the surface during the week before the South Carolina primary. The press has scoured every exit poll for the latest evidence of racial polarization, not just in terms of white and black, but black and brown as well.

And yet, it has only been in the last couple of weeks that the discussion of race in this campaign has taken a particularly divisive turn.

On one end of the spectrum, we've heard the implication that my candidacy is somehow an exercise in affirmative action; that it's based solely on the desire of wide-eyed liberals to purchase racial reconciliation on the cheap. On the other end, we've heard my former pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, use incendiary language to express views that have the potential not only to widen the racial divide, but views that denigrate both the greatness and the goodness of our nation; that rightly offend white and black alike.

I have already condemned, in unequivocal terms, the statements of Reverend Wright that have caused such controversy. For some, nagging questions remain. Did I know him to be an occasionally fierce critic of American domestic and foreign policy? Of course. Did I ever hear him make remarks that could be considered controversial while I sat in church? Yes. Did I strongly disagree with many of his political views? Absolutely – just as I'm sure many of you have heard remarks from your pastors, priests, or rabbis with which you strongly disagreed.

But the remarks that have caused this recent firestorm weren't simply controversial. They weren't simply a religious leader's effort to speak out against perceived injustice. Instead, they expressed a profoundly distorted view of this country – a view that sees white racism as endemic, and that elevates what is wrong with America above all that we know is right with America; a view that sees the conflicts in the Middle East as rooted primarily in the actions of stalwart allies like Israel, instead of emanating from the perverse and hateful ideologies of radical Islam.

As such, Reverend Wright's comments were not only wrong but divisive, divisive at a time when we need unity; racially charged at a time when we need to come together to solve a set of monumental problems – two wars, a terrorist threat, a falling economy, a chronic health care crisis and potentially devastating climate change; problems that are neither black or white or Latino or Asian, but rather problems that confront us all.

Given my background, my politics, and my professed values and ideals, there will no doubt be those for whom my statements of condemnation are not enough. Why associate myself with Reverend Wright in the first place, they may ask? Why not join another church? And I confess that if all that I knew of Reverend Wright were the snippets of those sermons that have run in an endless loop on the television and YouTube, or if Trinity United Church of Christ conformed to the caricatures being peddled by some commentators, there is no doubt that I would react in much the same way.

But the truth is, that isn't all that I know of the man. The man I met more than twenty years ago is a man who helped introduce me to my Christian faith, a man who spoke to me about our obligations to love one another; to care for the sick and lift up the poor. He is a man who served his country as a U.S. Marine; who has studied and lectured at some of the finest universities and seminaries in the country, and who for over thirty years led a church that serves the community by doing God's work here on Earth – by housing the homeless, ministering to the needy, providing day care services and scholarships and prison ministries, and reaching out to those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

In my first book, *Dreams From My Father*, I described the experience of my first service at Trinity:

"People began to shout, to rise from their seats and clap and cry out, a forceful wind carrying the reverend's voice up into the rafters....And in that single note – hope! – I heard something else; at the foot of that cross, inside the thousands of churches across the city, I imagined the stories of ordinary black people merging with the stories of David and Goliath, Moses and Pharaoh, the Christians in the lion's den, Ezekiel's field of dry bones. Those stories – of survival, and freedom, and hope – became our story, my story; the blood that had spilled was our blood, the tears our tears; until this black church, on this bright day, seemed once more a vessel carrying the story of a people into future generations and into a larger world. Our trials and triumphs became at once unique and universal, black and more than black; in chronicling our journey, the stories and songs gave us a means to reclaim memories that we didn't

need to feel shame about...memories that all people might study and cherish – and with which we could start to rebuild.”

That has been my experience at Trinity. Like other predominantly black churches across the country, Trinity embodies the black community in its entirety – the doctor and the welfare mom, the model student and the former gang-banger. Like other black churches, Trinity’s services are full of raucous laughter and sometimes bawdy humor. They are full of dancing, clapping, screaming and shouting that may seem jarring to the untrained ear. The church contains in full the kindness and cruelty, the fierce intelligence and the shocking ignorance, the struggles and successes, the love and yes, the bitterness and bias that make up the black experience in America.

And this helps explain, perhaps, my relationship with Reverend Wright. As imperfect as he may be, he has been like family to me. He strengthened my faith, officiated my wedding, and baptized my children. Not once in my conversations with him have I heard him talk about any ethnic group in derogatory terms, or treat whites with whom he interacted with anything but courtesy and respect. He contains within him the contradictions – the good and the bad – of the community that he has served diligently for so many years.

I can no more disown him than I can disown the black community. I can no more disown him than I can my white grandmother – a woman who helped raise me, a woman who sacrificed again and again for me, a woman who loves me as much as she loves anything in this world, but a woman who once confessed her fear of black men who passed by her on the street, and who on more than one occasion has uttered racial or ethnic stereotypes that made me cringe.

These people are a part of me. And they are a part of America, this country that I love.

Some will see this as an attempt to justify or excuse comments that are simply inexcusable. I can assure you it is not. I suppose the politically safe thing would be to move on from this episode and just hope that it fades into the woodwork. We can dismiss Reverend Wright as a crank or a demagogue, just as some have dismissed Geraldine Ferraro, in the aftermath of her recent statements, as harboring some deep-seated racial bias.

But race is an issue that I believe this nation cannot afford to ignore right now. We would be making the same mistake that Reverend Wright made in his offending sermons about America – to simplify and stereotype and amplify the negative to the point that it distorts reality.

The fact is that the comments that have been made and the issues that have surfaced over the last few weeks reflect the complexities of race in this country that we’ve never really worked through – a part of our union that we have yet to perfect. And if we walk away now, if we simply retreat into our respective corners, we will never be able to come together and solve challenges like health care, or education, or the need to find good jobs for every American.

Understanding this reality requires a reminder of how we arrived at this point. As William Faulkner once wrote, “The past isn’t dead and buried. In fact, it isn’t even past.” We do not need to recite here the history of racial injustice in this country. But we do need to remind ourselves that so many of the disparities that exist in the African-American community today can be directly traced to inequalities passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

Segregated schools were, and are, inferior schools; we still haven’t fixed them, fifty years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the inferior education they provided, then and now, helps explain the pervasive achievement gap between today’s black and white students.

Legalized discrimination – where blacks were prevented, often through violence, from owning property, or loans were not granted to African-American business owners, or black homeowners could not access FHA mortgages, or blacks were excluded from unions, or the police force, or fire departments – meant that black families could not amass any meaningful wealth to bequeath to future generations. That history helps explain the wealth and income gap between black and white, and the concentrated pockets of poverty that persists in so many of today’s urban and rural communities.

A lack of economic opportunity among black men, and the shame and frustration that came from not being able to provide for one’s family, contributed to the erosion of black families – a problem that wel-

fare policies for many years may have worsened. And the lack of basic services in so many urban black neighborhoods – parks for kids to play in, police walking the beat, regular garbage pick-up and building code enforcement – all helped create a cycle of violence, blight and neglect that continue to haunt us. This is the reality in which Reverend Wright and other African-Americans of his generation grew up. They came of age in the late fifties and early sixties, a time when segregation was still the law of the land and opportunity was systematically constricted. What's remarkable is not how many failed in the face of discrimination, but rather how many men and women overcame the odds; how many were able to make a way out of no way for those like me who would come after them.

But for all those who scratched and clawed their way to get a piece of the American Dream, there were many who didn't make it – those who were ultimately defeated, in one way or another, by discrimination. That legacy of defeat was passed on to future generations – those young men and increasingly young women who we see standing on street corners or languishing in our prisons, without hope or prospects for the future. Even for those blacks who did make it, questions of race, and racism, continue to define their worldview in fundamental ways. For the men and women of Reverend Wright's generation, the memories of humiliation and doubt and fear have not gone away; nor has the anger and the bitterness of those years. That anger may not get expressed in public, in front of white co-workers or white friends. But it does find voice in the barbershop or around the kitchen table. At times, that anger is exploited by politicians, to gin up votes along racial lines, or to make up for a politician's own failings.

And occasionally it finds voice in the church on Sunday morning, in the pulpit and in the pews. The fact that so many people are surprised to hear that anger in some of Reverend Wright's sermons simply reminds us of the old truism that the most segregated hour in American life occurs on Sunday morning. That anger is not always productive; indeed, all too often it distracts attention from solving real problems; it keeps us from squarely facing our own complicity in our condition, and prevents the African-American community from forging the alliances it needs to bring about real change. But the anger is real; it is powerful; and to simply wish it away, to condemn it without understanding its roots, only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races.

In fact, a similar anger exists within segments of the white community. Most working- and middle-class white Americans don't feel that they have been particularly privileged by their race. Their experience is the immigrant experience – as far as they're concerned, no one's handed them anything, they've built it from scratch. They've worked hard all their lives, many times only to see their jobs shipped overseas or their pension dumped after a lifetime of labor. They are anxious about their futures, and feel their dreams slipping away; in an era of stagnant wages and global competition, opportunity comes to be seen as a zero sum game, in which your dreams come at my expense. So when they are told to bus their children to a school across town; when they hear that an African American is getting an advantage in landing a good job or a spot in a good college because of an injustice that they themselves never committed; when they're told that their fears about crime in urban neighborhoods are somehow prejudiced, resentment builds over time.

Like the anger within the black community, these resentments aren't always expressed in polite company. But they have helped shape the political landscape for at least a generation. Anger over welfare and affirmative action helped forge the Reagan Coalition. Politicians routinely exploited fears of crime for their own electoral ends. Talk show hosts and conservative commentators built entire careers unmasking bogus claims of racism while dismissing legitimate discussions of racial injustice and inequality as mere political correctness or reverse racism.

Just as black anger often proved counterproductive, so have these white resentments distracted attention from the real culprits of the middle class squeeze – a corporate culture rife with inside dealing, questionable accounting practices, and short-term greed; a Washington dominated by lobbyists and special interests; economic policies that favor the few over the many. And yet, to wish away the resentments of white Americans, to label them as misguided or even racist, without recognizing they are grounded in legitimate concerns – this too widens the racial divide, and blocks the path to understanding.

This is where we are right now. It's a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years. Contrary to the

claims of some of my critics, black and white, I have never been so naïve as to believe that we can get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle, or with a single candidacy – particularly a candidacy as imperfect as my own.

But I have asserted a firm conviction – a conviction rooted in my faith in God and my faith in the American people – that working together we can move beyond some of our old racial wounds, and that in fact we have no choice if we are to continue on the path of a more perfect union.

For the African-American community, that path means embracing the burdens of our past without becoming victims of our past. It means continuing to insist on a full measure of justice in every aspect of American life. But it also means binding our particular grievances – for better health care, and better schools, and better jobs – to the larger aspirations of all Americans – the white woman struggling to break the glass ceiling, the white man whose been laid off, the immigrant trying to feed his family. And it means taking full responsibility for own lives – by demanding more from our fathers, and spending more time with our children, and reading to them, and teaching them that while they may face challenges and discrimination in their own lives, they must never succumb to despair or cynicism; they must always believe that they can write their own destiny.

Ironically, this quintessentially American – and yes, conservative – notion of self-help found frequent expression in Reverend Wright's sermons. But what my former pastor too often failed to understand is that embarking on a program of self-help also requires a belief that society can change.

The profound mistake of Reverend Wright's sermons is not that he spoke about racism in our society. It's that he spoke as if our society was static; as if no progress has been made; as if this country – a country that has made it possible for one of his own members to run for the highest office in the land and build a coalition of white and black; Latino and Asian, rich and poor, young and old – is still irrevocably bound to a tragic past. But what we know – what we have seen – is that America can change. That is true genius of this nation. What we have already achieved gives us hope – the audacity to hope – for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

In the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination – and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past – are real and must be addressed. Not just with words, but with deeds – by investing in our schools and our communities; by enforcing our civil rights laws and ensuring fairness in our criminal justice system; by providing this generation with ladders of opportunity that were unavailable for previous generations. It requires all Americans to realize that your dreams do not have to come at the expense of my dreams; that investing in the health, welfare, and education of black and brown and white children will ultimately help all of America prosper.

In the end, then, what is called for is nothing more, and nothing less, than what all the world's great religions demand – that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Let us be our brother's keeper, Scripture tells us. Let us be our sister's keeper. Let us find that common stake we all have in one another, and let our politics reflect that spirit as well.

For we have a choice in this country. We can accept a politics that breeds division, and conflict, and cynicism. We can tackle race only as spectacle – as we did in the OJ trial – or in the wake of tragedy, as we did in the aftermath of Katrina – or as fodder for the nightly news. We can play Reverend Wright's sermons on every channel, every day and talk about them from now until the election, and make the only question in this campaign whether or not the American people think that I somehow believe or sympathize with his most offensive words. We can pounce on some gaffe by a Hillary supporter as evidence that she's playing the race card, or we can speculate on whether white men will all flock to John McCain in the general election regardless of his policies.

We can do that.

But if we do, I can tell you that in the next election, we'll be talking about some other distraction. And then another one. And then another one. And nothing will change.

That is one option. Or, at this moment, in this election, we can come together and say, "Not this time." This time we want to talk about the crumbling schools that are stealing the future of black children and

white children and Asian children and Hispanic children and Native American children. This time we want to reject the cynicism that tells us that these kids can't learn; that those kids who don't look like us are somebody else's problem. The children of America are not those kids, they are our kids, and we will not let them fall behind in a 21st century economy. Not this time.

This time we want to talk about how the lines in the Emergency Room are filled with whites and blacks and Hispanics who do not have health care; who don't have the power on their own to overcome the special interests in Washington, but who can take them on if we do it together.

This time we want to talk about the shuttered mills that once provided a decent life for men and women of every race, and the homes for sale that once belonged to Americans from every religion, every region, every walk of life. This time we want to talk about the fact that the real problem is not that someone who doesn't look like you might take your job; it's that the corporation you work for will ship it overseas for nothing more than a profit.

This time we want to talk about the men and women of every color and creed who serve together, and fight together, and bleed together under the same proud flag. We want to talk about how to bring them home from a war that never should've been authorized and never should've been waged, and we want to talk about how we'll show our patriotism by caring for them, and their families, and giving them the benefits they have earned.

I would not be running for President if I didn't believe with all my heart that this is what the vast majority of Americans want for this country. This union may never be perfect, but generation after generation has shown that it can always be perfected. And today, whenever I find myself feeling doubtful or cynical about this possibility, what gives me the most hope is the next generation – the young people whose attitudes and beliefs and openness to change have already made history in this election.

There is one story in particular that I'd like to leave you with today – a story I told when I had the great honor of speaking on Dr. King's birthday at his home church, Ebenezer Baptist, in Atlanta.

There is a young, twenty-three year old white woman named Ashley Baia who organized for our campaign in Florence, South Carolina. She had been working to organize a mostly African-American community since the beginning of this campaign, and one day she was at a roundtable discussion where everyone went around telling their story and why they were there.

And Ashley said that when she was nine years old, her mother got cancer. And because she had to miss days of work, she was let go and lost her health care. They had to file for bankruptcy, and that's when Ashley decided that she had to do something to help her mom.

She knew that food was one of their most expensive costs, and so Ashley convinced her mother that what she really liked and really wanted to eat more than anything else was mustard and relish sandwiches. Because that was the cheapest way to eat.

She did this for a year until her mom got better, and she told everyone at the roundtable that the reason she joined our campaign was so that she could help the millions of other children in the country who want and need to help their parents too.

Now Ashley might have made a different choice. Perhaps somebody told her along the way that the source of her mother's problems were blacks who were on welfare and too lazy to work, or Hispanics who were coming into the country illegally. But she didn't. She sought out allies in her fight against injustice.

Anyway, Ashley finishes her story and then goes around the room and asks everyone else why they're supporting the campaign. They all have different stories and reasons. Many bring up a specific issue. And finally they come to this elderly black man who's been sitting there quietly the entire time. And Ashley asks him why he's there. And he does not bring up a specific issue. He does not say health care or the economy. He does not say education or the war. He does not say that he was there because of Barack Obama. He simply says to everyone in the room, "I am here because of Ashley."

"I'm here because of Ashley." By itself, that single moment of recognition between that young white girl and that old black man is not enough. It is not enough to give health care to the sick, or jobs to the jobless, or education to our children.

But it is where we start. It is where our union grows stronger. And as so many generations have come to realize over the course of the two-hundred and twenty one years since a band of patriots signed that document in Philadelphia, that is where the perfection begins.

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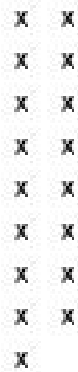
Anonymous (2008-03-18 16:44:00)

I think it is unfortunate that this controversy has succeeded where Mrs. Clinton has not. I believe hence forth Mr. Obama will be seen as African America's candidate. There is so much more to this man.

Video: Philadelphia Speech (2008-03-18 15:22)

Check out Barack's well-written and well-delivered speech today in Philadelphia.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Upcoming Barack Obama Appearances (2008-03-18 21:11)

Upcoming Barack Obama Events

Mar 19 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Charlotte, NC

Mar 20 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Beckley, WV

Mar 20 Speech on Iraq and the Economy in Charleston with Barack Obama

in Charleston, WV

Mar 21 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Portland, OR

Mar 21 Stand for Change Rally with Barack Obama

in Eugene, OR

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Jeremiah Wright: The Unacceptability of Truth (2008-03-19 07:58)

I'm posting an excellent defense of Rev. Jeremiah Wright below. Don't think the campaign would use this as their focus is to unite people in a movement for change, and to do that a leader must be diplomatic. Also, the campaign must keep the movement for change as the main issue and not let others frame Obama's race as the central campaign issue. However, as usual Wright's comments have been misinterpreted by the spin masters. It's impractical to expect Obama to create an alternate reality and disavow every angry black man on the planet. You could certainly disagree with Wright on issues like the AIDS conspiracy, something that has been argued on by experts on the Oprah show, but in most instances despite the inflammatory tone, Wright was right.

Of National Lies and Racial Amnesia:

Jeremiah Wright, Barack Obama, and the Unacceptability of Truth

By Tim Wise

March 18, 2008

For most white folks, indignation just doesn't wear well. Once affected or conjured up, it reminds one of a pudgy man, wearing a tie that may well have fit him when he was fifty pounds lighter, but which now cuts off somewhere above his navel and makes him look like an idiot.

Indignation doesn't work for most whites, because having remained sanguine about, silent during, indeed often supportive of so much injustice over the years in this country—the theft of native land and genocide of indigenous persons, and the enslavement of Africans being only two of the best examples—we are just a bit late to get into the game of moral rectitude. And once we enter it, our efforts at righteousness tend to fail the test of sincerity.

But here we are, in 2008, fuming at the words of Pastor Jeremiah Wright, of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago—occasionally Barack Obama's pastor, and the man whom Obama credits with having brought him to Christianity—for merely reminding us of those evils about which we have remained so quiet, so dismissive, so unconcerned. It is not the crime that bothers us, but the remembrance of it, the unwillingness to let it go—these last words being the first ones uttered by most whites it seems whenever anyone, least of all an "angry black man" like Jeremiah Wright, foists upon us the bill of particulars for

several centuries of white supremacy.

But our collective indignation, no matter how loudly we announce it, cannot drown out the truth. And as much as white America may not be able to hear it (and as much as politics may require Obama to condemn it) let us be clear, Jeremiah Wright fundamentally told the truth.

Oh I know that for some such a comment will seem shocking. After all, didn't he say that America "got what it deserved" on 9/11? And didn't he say that black people should be singing "God Damn America" because of its treatment of the African American community throughout the years?

Well actually, no he didn't.

Wright said not that the attacks of September 11th were justified, but that they were, in effect, predictable. Deploying the imagery of chickens coming home to roost is not to give thanks for the return of the poultry or to endorse such feathered homecoming as a positive good; rather, it is merely to note two things: first, that what goes around, indeed, comes around—a notion with longstanding theological grounding—and secondly, that the U.S. has indeed engaged in more than enough violence against innocent people to make it just a tad bit hypocritical for us to then evince shock and outrage about an attack on ourselves, as if the latter were unprecedented.

He noted that we killed far more people, far more innocent civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki than were killed on 9/11 and "never batted an eye." That this statement is true is inarguable, at least amongst sane people. He is correct on the math, he is correct on the innocence of the dead (neither city was a military target), and he is most definitely correct on the lack of remorse or even self-doubt about the act: sixty-plus years later most Americans still believe those attacks were justified, that they were needed to end the war and "save American lives."

But not only does such a calculus suggest that American lives are inherently worth more than the lives of Japanese civilians (or, one supposes, Vietnamese, Iraqi or Afghan civilians too), but it also ignores the long-declassified documents, and President Truman's own war diaries, all of which indicate clearly that Japan had already signaled its desire to end the war, and that we knew they were going to surrender, even without the dropping of atomic weapons. The conclusion to which these truths then attest is simple, both in its basic veracity and its monstrosity: namely, that in those places we committed premeditated and deliberate mass murder, with no justification whatsoever; and yet for saying that I will receive more hate mail, more hostility, more dismissive and contemptuous responses than will those who suggest that no body count is too high when we're the ones doing the killing. Jeremiah Wright becomes a pariah, because, you see, we much prefer the logic of George Bush the First, who once said that as President he would "never apologize for the United States of America. I don't care what the facts are."

And Wright didn't say blacks should be singing "God Damn America." He was suggesting that blacks owe little moral allegiance to a nation that has treated so many of them for so long as animals, as persons undeserving of dignity and respect, and which even now locks up hundreds of thousands of non-violent offenders (especially for drug possession), even while whites who do the same crimes (and according to the data, when it comes to drugs, more often in fact), are walking around free. His reference to God in that sermon was more about what God will do to such a nation, than it was about what should or shouldn't happen. It was a comment derived from, and fully in keeping with, the black prophetic tradition, and although one can surely disagree with the theology (I do, actually, and don't believe that any God either blesses or condemns nation states for their actions), the statement itself was no call for blacks to turn on America. If anything, it was a demand that America earn the respect of black people, something the evidence and history suggests it has yet to do.

Finally, although one can certainly disagree with Wright about his suggestion that the government created AIDS to get rid of black folks—and I do, for instance—it is worth pointing out that Wright isn't the only one who has said this. In fact, none other than Bill Cosby (oh yes, that Bill Cosby, the one white folks love because of his recent moral crusade against the black poor) proffered his belief in the very same thing back in the early '90s in an interview on CNN, when he said that AIDS may well have been created to get rid of people whom the government deemed "undesirable" including gays and racial minorities.

So that's the truth of the matter: Wright made one comment that is highly arguable, but which has also

been voiced by white America's favorite black man, another that was horribly misinterpreted and stripped of all context, and then another that was demonstrably accurate. And for this, he is pilloried and made into a virtual enemy of the state; for this, Barack Obama may lose the support of just enough white folks to cost him the Democratic nomination, and/or the Presidency; all of it, because Jeremiah Wright, unlike most preachers opted for truth. If he had been one of those "prosperity ministers" who says Jesus wants nothing so much as for you to be rich, like Joel Osteen, that would have been fine. Had he been a retread bigot like Falwell was, or Pat Robertson is, he might have been criticized, but he would have remained in good standing and surely not have damaged a Presidential candidate in this way. But unlike Osteen, and Falwell, and Robertson, Jeremiah Wright refused to feed his parishioners lies.

What Jeremiah Wright knows, and told his flock—though make no mistake, they already knew it—is that 9/11 was neither the first, nor worst act of terrorism on American soil. The history of this nation for folks of color, was for generations, nothing less than an intergenerational hate crime, one in which 9/11s were woven into the fabric of everyday life: hundreds of thousands of the enslaved who died from the conditions of their bondage; thousands more who were lynched (as many as 10,000 in the first few years after the Civil War, according to testimony in the Congressional Record at the time); millions of indigenous persons wiped off the face of the Earth. No, to some, the horror of 9/11 was not new. To some it was not on that day that "everything changed." To some, everything changed four hundred years ago, when that first ship landed at what would become Jamestown. To some, everything changed when their ancestors were forced into the hulls of slave ships at Goree Island and brought to a strange land as chattel. To some, everything changed when they were run out of Northern Mexico, only to watch it become the Southwest United States, thanks to a war of annihilation initiated by the U.S. government. To some, being on the receiving end of terrorism has been a way of life. Until recently it was absolutely normal in fact.

But white folks have a hard time hearing these simple truths. We find it almost impossible to listen to an alternative version of reality. Indeed, what seems to bother white people more than anything, whether in the recent episode, or at any other time, is being confronted with the recognition that black people do not, by and large, see the world like we do; that black people, by and large, do not view America as white people view it. We are, in fact, shocked that this should be so, having come to believe, apparently, that the falsehoods to which we cling like a kidney patient clings to a dialysis machine, are equally shared by our darker-skinned compatriots.

This is what James Baldwin was talking about in his classic 1972 work, *No Name in the Street*, wherein he noted:

"White children, in the main, and whether they are rich or poor, grow up with a grasp of reality so feeble that they can very accurately be described as deluded—about themselves and the world they live in. White people have managed to get through their entire lifetimes in this euphoric state, but black people have not been so lucky: a black man who sees the world the way John Wayne, for example, sees it would not be an eccentric patriot, but a raving maniac."

And so we were shocked in 1987, when Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall declined to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution, because, as he noted, most of that history had been one of overt racism and injustice, and to his way of thinking, the only history worth celebrating had been that of the past three or four decades.

We were shocked to learn that black people actually believed that a white cop who was a documented racist might frame a black man; and we're shocked to learn that lots of black folks still perceive the U.S. as a racist nation—we're literally stunned that people who say they experience discrimination regularly (and who have the social science research to back them up) actually think that those experiences and that data might actually say something about the nation in which they reside. Imagine.

Whites are easily shocked by what we see and hear from Pastor Wright and Trinity Church, because what we see and hear so thoroughly challenges our understanding of who we are as a nation. But black people have never, for the most part, believed in the imagery of the "shining city on a hill," for they have never had the option of looking at their nation and ignoring the mountain-sized warts still dotting its face when it comes to race. Black people do not, in the main, get misty eyed at the sight of the flag the way white

people do—and this is true even for millions of black veterans—for they understand that the nation for whom that flag waves is still not fully committed to their own equality. They have a harder time singing those tunes that white people seem so eager to belt out, like "God Bless America," for they know that whites sang those words loudly and proudly even as they were enforcing Jim Crow segregation, rioting against blacks who dared move into previously white neighborhoods, throwing rocks at Dr. King and then cheering, as so many did, when they heard the news that he had been assassinated.

Whites refuse to remember (or perhaps have never learned) that which black folks cannot afford to forget. I've seen white people stunned to the point of paralysis when they learn the truth about lynchings in this country—when they discover that such events were not just a couple of good old boys with a truck and a rope hauling some black guy out to the tree, hanging him, and letting him swing there. They were never told the truth: that lynchings were often community events, advertised in papers as "Negro Barbecues," involving hundreds or even thousands of whites, who would join in the fun, eat chicken salad and drink sweet tea, all while the black victims of their depravity were being hung, then shot, then burned, and then having their body parts cut off, to be handed out to onlookers. They are stunned to learn that postcards of the events were traded as souvenirs, and that very few whites, including members of their own families did or said anything to stop it.

Rather than knowing about and confronting the ugliness of our past, whites take steps to excise the less flattering aspects of our history so that we need not be bothered with them. So, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for example, site of an orgy of violence against the black community in 1921, city officials literally went into the town library and removed all reference to the mass killings in the Greenwood district from the papers with a razor blade—an excising of truth and an assault on memory that would remain unchanged for over seventy years.

Most white people desire, or perhaps even require the propagation of lies when it comes to our history. Surely we prefer the lies to anything resembling, even remotely, the truth. Our version of history, of our national past, simply cannot allow for the intrusion of fact into a worldview so thoroughly identified with fiction. But that white version of America is not only extraordinarily incomplete, in that it so favors the white experience to the exclusion of others; it is more than that; it is actually a slap in the face to people of color, a re-injury, a reminder that they are essentially irrelevant, their concerns trivial, their lives unworthy of being taken seriously. In that sense, and what few if any white Americans appear capable of grasping at present, is that "Leave it Beaver" and "Father Knows Best," portray an America so divorced from the reality of the times in which they were produced, as to raise serious questions about the sanity of those who found them so moving, so accurate, so real. These iconographic representations of life in the U.S. are worse than selective, worse than false, they are assaults to the humanity and memory of black people, who were being savagely oppressed even as June Cleaver did housework in heels and laughed about the hilarious hijinks of Beaver and Larry Mondello.

These portraits of America are certifiable evidence of how disconnected white folks were—and to the extent we still love them and view them as representations of the "good old days" to which we wish we could return, still are—from those men and women of color with whom we have long shared a nation. Just two months before "Leave it to Beaver" debuted, proposed civil rights legislation was killed thanks to Strom Thurmond's 24-hour filibuster speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. One month prior, Arkansas Governor Orville Faubus called out the National Guard to block black students from entering Little Rock Central High; and nine days before America was introduced to the Cleavers, and the comforting image of national life they represented, those black students were finally allowed to enter, amid the screams of enraged, unhinged, viciously bigoted white people, who saw nothing wrong with calling children niggers in front of cameras. That was America of the 1950s: not the sanitized version into which so many escape thanks to the miracle of syndication, which merely allows white people to relive a lie, year after year after year.

No, it is not the pastor who distorts history; Nick at Nite and your teenager's textbooks do that. It is not he who casts aspersions upon "this great country" as Barack Obama put it in his public denunciations of him; it is the historic leadership of the nation that has cast aspersions upon it; it is they who have

cheapened it, who have made gaudy and vile the promise of American democracy by defiling it with lies. They engage in a patriotism that is pathological in its implications, that asks of those who adhere to it not merely a love of country but the turning of one's nation into an idol to be worshipped, it not literally, then at least in terms of consequence.

It is they—the flag-lapel-pin wearing leaders of this land—who bring shame to the country with their nonsensical suggestions that we are always noble in warfare, always well-intended, and although we occasionally make mistakes, we are never the ones to blame for anything. Nothing that happens to us has anything to do with us at all. It is always about them. They are evil, crazy, fanatical, hate our freedoms, and are jealous of our prosperity. When individuals prattle on in this manner we diagnose them as narcissistic, as deluded. When nations do it—when our nation does—we celebrate it as though it were the very model of rational and informed citizenship.

So what can we say about a nation that values lies more than it loves truth? A place where adherence to sincerely believed and internalized fictions allows one to rise to the highest offices in the land, and to earn the respect of millions, while a willingness to challenge those fictions and offer a more accurate counter-narrative earns one nothing but contempt, derision, indeed outright hatred? What we can say is that such a place is signing its own death warrant. What we can say is that such a place is missing the only and last opportunity it may ever have to make things right, to live up to its professed ideals. What we can say is that such a place can never move forward, because we have yet to fully address and come to terms with that which lay behind.

What can we say about a nation where white preachers can lie every week from their pulpits without so much as having to worry that their lies might be noticed by the shiny white faces in their pews, while black preachers who tell one after another essential truth are demonized, not only for the stridency of their tone—which needless to say scares white folks, who have long preferred a style of praise and worship resembling nothing so much as a coma—but for merely calling bullshit on those whose lies are swallowed whole?

And oh yes, I said it: white preachers lie. In fact, they lie with a skill, fluidity, and precision unparalleled in the history of either preaching or lying, both of which histories stretch back a ways and have often overlapped. They lie every Sunday, as they talk about a Savior they have chosen to represent dishonestly as a white man, in every picture to be found of him in their tabernacles, every children's story book in their Sunday Schools, every Christmas card they'll send to relatives and friends this December. But to lie about Jesus, about the one they consider God—to bear false witness as to who this man was and what he looked like—is no cause for concern.

Nor is it a problem for these preachers to teach and preach that those who don't believe as they believe are going to hell. Despite the fact that such a belief casts aspersions upon God that are so profound as to defy belief—after all, they imply that God is so fundamentally evil that he would burn non-believers in a lake of eternal fire—many of the white folks who now condemn Jeremiah Wright welcome that theology of hate. Indeed, back when President Bush was the Governor of Texas, he endorsed this kind of thinking, responding to a question about whether Jews were going to go to hell, by saying that unless one accepted Jesus as one's personal savior, the Bible made it pretty clear that indeed, hell was where you'd be heading.

So you can curse God in this way—and to imply such hate on God's part is surely to curse him—and in effect, curse those who aren't Christians, and no one says anything. That isn't considered bigoted. That isn't considered beyond the pale of polite society. One is not disqualified from becoming President in the minds of millions because they go to a church that says that shit every single week, or because they believe it themselves. And millions do believe it, and see nothing wrong with it whatsoever.

So white folks are mad at Jeremiah Wright because he challenges their views about their country. Meanwhile, those same white folks, and their ministers and priests, every week put forth a false image of the God Jeremiah Wright serves, and yet it is whites who feel we have the right to be offended.

Pardon me, but something is wrong here, and whatever it is, is not to be found at Trinity United Church of Christ.

The White Privilege Conference is April 2-5, 2008!
Visit: www.uccs.edu/wpc/

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-03-19 19:03:00)

The campaign was on the right track. They just do not have a conviction to follow up correctly. One coat of paint is not enough for Jeremiah Wright. The issues must be tied to the landmark speech. The difference between health care in America and that of other industrialized countries is our diversity. If we are to unite we must take care of each other with universal health care just like countries that do not have such diverse ethnicities and races. The speech would be a great lead in to talking about how coincidental it is for us to be so diverse and not developing universal health care for our citizenry.

z.bediako (2008-03-21 09:26:00)

Great Post.

You have articulated what I have been trying to say.

Thank You

Thank YOU!

Anonymous (2010-09-17 19:08:30)

Brilliant blog, I hadn't come across obamabarack.blogspot.com before during my searches!
Keep up the great work!

Anonymous (2010-10-15 01:47:40)

Hey,

This is a question for the webmaster/admin here at obamabarack.blogspot.com.

May I use some of the information from this blog post right above if I provide a backlink back to this site?

Thanks,

Alex

Paul Kekai Manansala (2010-10-15 08:15:20)

Yes, you may use the information.

Anonymous (2011-01-18 15:56:45)

Greetings,

Thanks for sharing this link - but unfortunately it seems to be down? Does anybody here at obamabarack.blogspot.com have a mirror or another source?

Cheers,

Peter

(2008-03-19 07:58)

I'm posting an excellent defense of Rev. Jeremiah Wright below. Don't think the campaign would use this as

Obama speaks on Iraq War 5th Anniversary (2008-03-19 09:25)

From barackobama.com :



FAYETTEVILLE, NC—On the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq, Senator Barack Obama offered a clear contrast between his foreign policy vision and that of John McCain, emphasizing the need to end the war in order to confront the emerging national security challenges of the 21st Century. Obama spoke at Fayetteville Technical Community College, a short distance from Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. Fort Bragg is home to the 82d Airborne Division and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, members of which have seen multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his remarks, Senator Obama drew stark distinctions between the leadership and judgment he offers and the kind of leadership that led us into Iraq—and fails to comprehend the consequences of our involvement there:

"Just yesterday, we heard Senator McCain confuse Sunni and Shiite, Iran and al Qaeda," Senator Obama said. "Maybe that is why he voted to go to war with a country that had no al Qaeda ties. Maybe that is why he completely fails to understand that the war in Iraq has done more to embolden America's enemies than any strategic choice that we have made in decades."

Obama was introduced and endorsed at the event by Paul "Bud" Bucha, a former Army captain awarded the Medal of Honor in 1970 for heroism in Vietnam.

Senator Obama outlined the threats that have festered while the U.S. has remained mired in Iraq, a war he opposed from the start. Obama will immediately begin to bring and end to the war and refocus our military and diplomatic efforts on 21st-Century security challenges. As President, Obama will:

- End the war in Iraq, removing our troops at a pace of 1 to 2 combat brigades per month;
- Finally finish the fight against the Taliban, root out al Qaeda and invest in the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, while making aid to the Pakistani government conditional;
- Act aggressively to stop nuclear proliferation and to secure all loose nuclear materials around the world;
- Double our foreign assistance to cut extreme poverty in half;

- Invest in a clean energy future to wean the U.S. off of foreign oil and to lead the world against the threat of global climate change;
- Rebuild our military capability by increasing the number of soldiers, marines, and special forces troops, and insist on adequate training and time off between deployments;
- Renew American diplomacy by talking to our adversaries as well as our friends; increasing the size of the Foreign Service and the Peace Corps; and creating an America's Voice Corps.

✖ [Click here for the full fact sheet.](#)

Continue reading for Senator Obama's remarks follow as prepared for delivery... The World Beyond Iraq
Senator Barack Obama

March 19, 2008

As prepared for delivery

Just before America's entry into World War I, President Woodrow Wilson addressed Congress: "It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war," he said. "...But the right is more precious than peace." Wilson's words captured two awesome responsibilities that test any Commander-in-Chief – to never hesitate to defend America, but to never go to war unless you must. War is sometimes necessary, but it has grave consequences, and the judgment to go to war can never be undone.



Five years ago today, President George W. Bush addressed the nation. Bombs had started to rain down on Baghdad. War was necessary, the President said, because the United States could not, "live at the

mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder.” Recalling the pain of 9/11, he said the price of inaction in Iraq was to meet the threat with “armies of fire fighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.”

At the time the President uttered those words, there was no hard evidence that Iraq had those stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. There was not any evidence that Iraq was responsible for the attacks of September 11, or that Iraq had operational ties to the al Qaeda terrorists who carried them out. By launching a war based on faulty premises and bad intelligence, President Bush failed Wilson’s test. So did Congress when it voted to give him the authority to wage war.

Five years have gone by since that fateful decision. This war has now lasted longer than World War I, World War II, or the Civil War. Nearly four thousand Americans have given their lives. Thousands more have been wounded. Even under the best case scenarios, this war will cost American taxpayers well over a trillion dollars. And where are we for all of this sacrifice? We are less safe and less able to shape events abroad. We are divided at home, and our alliances around the world have been strained. The threats of a new century have roiled the waters of peace and stability, and yet America remains anchored in Iraq. History will catalog the reasons why we waged a war that didn’t need to be fought, but two stand out. In 2002, when the fateful decisions about Iraq were made, there was a President for whom ideology overrode pragmatism, and there were too many politicians in Washington who spent too little time reading the intelligence reports, and too much time reading public opinion. The lesson of Iraq is that when we are making decisions about matters as grave as war, we need a policy rooted in reason and facts, not ideology and politics.

Now we are debating who should be our next Commander in Chief. And I am running for President because it’s time to turn the page on a failed ideology and a fundamentally flawed political strategy, so that we can make pragmatic judgments to keep our country safe. That’s what I did when I stood up and opposed this war from the start, and said that we needed to finish the fight against al Qaeda. And that’s what I’ll do as President of the United States.

Senator Clinton says that she and Senator McCain have passed a “Commander in Chief test” – not because of the judgments they’ve made, but because of the years they’ve spent in Washington. She made a similar argument when she said her vote for war was based on her experience at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. But here is the stark reality: there is a security gap in this country – a gap between the rhetoric of those who claim to be tough on national security, and the reality of growing insecurity caused by their decisions. A gap between Washington experience, and the wisdom of Washington’s judgments. A gap between the rhetoric of those who tout their support for our troops, and the overburdened state of our military.

It is time to have a debate with John McCain about the future of our national security. And the way to win that debate is not to compete with John McCain over who has more experience in Washington, because that’s a contest that he’ll win. The way to win a debate with John McCain is not to talk, and act, and vote like him on national security, because then we all lose. The way to win that debate and to keep America safe is to offer a clear contrast, and that’s what I will do when I am the nominee of the Democratic Party – because since before this war in Iraq began, I have made different judgments, I have a different vision, and I will offer a clean break from the failed policies and politics of the past.

Nowhere is that break more badly needed than in Iraq.

In the year since President Bush announced the surge – the bloodiest year of the war for America – the level of violence in Iraq has been reduced. Our troops – including so many from Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base – have done a brilliant job under difficult circumstances. Yet while we have a General who has used improved tactics to reduce violence, we still have the wrong strategy. As General Petraeus has himself acknowledged, the Iraqis are not achieving the political progress needed to end their civil war. Beyond Iraq, our military is badly overstretched, and we have neither the strategy nor resources to deal with nearly every other national security challenge we face.

This is why the judgment that matters most on Iraq – and on any decision to deploy military force – is the judgment made first. If you believe we are fighting the right war, then the problems we face are purely

tactical in nature. That is what Senator McCain wants to discuss – tactics. What he and the Administration have failed to present is an overarching strategy: how the war in Iraq enhances our long-term security, or will in the future. That's why this Administration cannot answer the simple question posed by Senator John Warner in hearings last year: Are we safer because of this war? And that is why Senator McCain can argue – as he did last year – that we couldn't leave Iraq because violence was up, and then argue this year that we can't leave Iraq because violence is down.

When you have no overarching strategy, there is no clear definition of success. Success comes to be defined as the ability to maintain a flawed policy indefinitely. Here is the truth: fighting a war without end will not force the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own future. And fighting in a war without end will not make the American people safer.

So when I am Commander-in-Chief, I will set a new goal on Day One: I will end this war. Not because politics compels it. Not because our troops cannot bear the burden– as heavy as it is. But because it is the right thing to do for our national security, and it will ultimately make us safer.

In order to end this war responsibly, I will immediately begin to remove our troops from Iraq. We can responsibly remove 1 to 2 combat brigades each month. If we start with the number of brigades we have in Iraq today, we can remove all of them 16 months. After this redeployment, we will leave enough troops in Iraq to guard our embassy and diplomats, and a counter-terrorism force to strike al Qaeda if it forms a base that the Iraqis cannot destroy. What I propose is not – and never has been – a precipitous drawdown. It is instead a detailed and prudent plan that will end a war nearly seven years after it started. My plan to end this war will finally put pressure on Iraq's leaders to take responsibility for their future. Because we've learned that when we tell Iraq's leaders that we'll stay as long as it takes, they take as long as they want. We need to send a different message. We will help Iraq reach a meaningful accord on national reconciliation. We will engage with every country in the region – and the UN – to support the stability and territorial integrity of Iraq. And we will launch a major humanitarian initiative to support Iraq's refugees and people. But Iraqis must take responsibility for their country. It is precisely this kind of approach – an approach that puts the onus on the Iraqis, and that relies on more than just military power – that is needed to stabilize Iraq.

Let me be clear: ending this war is not going to be easy. There will be dangers involved. We will have to make tactical adjustments, listening to our commanders on the ground, to ensure that our interests in a stable Iraq are met, and to make sure that our troops are secure. Senator Clinton has tried to use my position to score political points, suggesting that I am somehow less committed to ending the war. She makes this argument despite the fact that she has taken the same position in the past. So ask yourself: who do you trust to end a war – someone who opposed the war from the beginning, or someone who started opposing it when they started preparing a run for President?

Now we know what we'll hear from those like John McCain who support open-ended war. They will argue that leaving Iraq is surrender. That we are emboldening the enemy. These are the mistaken and misleading arguments we hear from those who have failed to demonstrate how the war in Iraq has made us safer. Just yesterday, we heard Senator McCain confuse Sunni and Shiite, Iran and al Qaeda. Maybe that is why he voted to go to war with a country that had no al Qaeda ties. Maybe that is why he completely fails to understand that the war in Iraq has done more to embolden America's enemies than any strategic choice that we have made in decades.

The war in Iraq has emboldened Iran, which poses the greatest challenge to American interests in the Middle East in a generation, continuing its nuclear program and threatening our ally, Israel. Instead of the new Middle East we were promised, Hamas runs Gaza, Hizbollah flags fly from the rooftops in Sadr City, and Iran is handing out money left and right in southern Lebanon.

The war in Iraq has emboldened North Korea, which built new nuclear weapons and even tested one before the Administration finally went against its own rhetoric, and pursued diplomacy.

The war in Iraq has emboldened the Taliban, which has rebuilt its strength since we took our eye off of Afghanistan.

Above all, the war in Iraq has emboldened al Qaeda, whose recruitment has jumped and whose leader-

ship enjoys a safe-haven in Pakistan – a thousand miles from Iraq.

The central front in the war against terror is not Iraq, and it never was. What more could America's enemies ask for than an endless war where they recruit new followers and try out new tactics on a battlefield so far from their base of operations? That is why my presidency will shift our focus. Rather than fight a war that does not need to be fought, we need to start fighting the battles that need to be won on the central front of the war against al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This is the area where the 9/11 attacks were planned. This is where Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants still hide. This is where extremism poses its greatest threat. Yet in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, we have pursued flawed strategies that are too distant from the needs of the people, and too timid in pursuit of our common enemies.

It may not dominate the evening news, but in Afghanistan, last year was the most deadly since 2001. Suicide attacks are up. Casualties are up. Corruption and drug trafficking are rampant. Neither the government nor the legal economy can meet the needs of the Afghan people.

It is not too late to prevail in Afghanistan. But we cannot prevail until we reduce our commitment in Iraq, which will allow us to do what I called for last August – providing at least two additional combat brigades to support our efforts in Afghanistan. This increased commitment in turn can be used to leverage greater assistance – with fewer restrictions – from our NATO allies. It will also allow us to invest more in training Afghan security forces, including more joint NATO operations with the Afghan Army, and a national police training plan that is effectively coordinated and resourced.

A stepped up military commitment must be backed by a long-term investment in the Afghan people. We will start with an additional \$1 billion in non military assistance each year – aid that is focused on reaching ordinary Afghans. We need to improve daily life by supporting education, basic infrastructure and human services. We have to counter the opium trade by supporting alternative livelihoods for Afghan farmers. And we must call on more support from friends and allies, and better coordination under a strong international coordinator.

To succeed in Afghanistan, we also need to fundamentally rethink our Pakistan policy. For years, we have supported stability over democracy in Pakistan, and gotten neither. The core leadership of al Qaeda has a safe-haven in Pakistan. The Taliban are able to strike inside Afghanistan and then return to the mountains of the Pakistani border. Throughout Pakistan, domestic unrest has been rising. The full democratic aspirations of the Pakistani people have been too long denied. A child growing up in Pakistan, more often than not, is taught to see America as a source of hate – not hope.

This is why I stood up last summer and said we cannot base our entire Pakistan policy on President Musharraf. Pakistan is our ally, but we do our own security and our ally no favors by supporting its President while we are seen to be ignoring the interests of the people. Our counter-terrorism assistance must be conditioned on Pakistani action to root out the al Qaeda sanctuary. And any U.S. aid not directly needed for the fight against al Qaeda or to invest in the Pakistani people should be conditioned on the full restoration of Pakistan's democracy and rule of law.

The choice is not between Musharraf and Islamic extremists. As the recent legislative elections showed, there is a moderate majority of Pakistanis, and they are the people we need on our side to win the war against al Qaeda. That is why we should dramatically increase our support for the Pakistani people – for education, economic development, and democratic institutions. That child in Pakistan must know that we want a better life for him, that America is on his side, and that his interest in opportunity is our interest as well. That's the promise that America must stand for.

And for his sake and ours, we cannot tolerate a sanctuary for terrorists who threaten America's homeland and Pakistan's stability. If we have actionable intelligence about high-level al Qaeda targets in Pakistan's border region, we must act if Pakistan will not or cannot. Senator Clinton, Senator McCain, and President Bush have all distorted and derided this position, suggesting that I would invade or bomb Pakistan. This is politics, pure and simple. My position, in fact, is the same pragmatic policy that all three of them have belatedly – if tacitly – acknowledged is one we should pursue. Indeed, it was months after I called for this policy that a top al Qaeda leader was taken out in Pakistan by an American aircraft. And remember

that the same three individuals who now criticize me for supporting a targeted strike on the terrorists who carried out the 9/11 attacks, are the same three individuals that supported an invasion of Iraq – a country that had nothing to do with 9/11.

It is precisely this kind of political point-scoring that has opened up the security gap in this country. We have a security gap when candidates say they will follow Osama bin Laden to the gates of hell, but refuse to follow him where he actually goes. What we need in our next Commander in Chief is not a stubborn refusal to acknowledge reality or empty rhetoric about 3AM phone calls. What we need is a pragmatic strategy that focuses on fighting our real enemies, rebuilding alliances, and renewing our engagement with the world's people.

In addition to freeing up resources to take the fight to al Qaeda, ending the war in Iraq will allow us to more effectively confront other threats in the world - threats that cannot be conquered with an occupying army or dispatched with a single decision in the middle of the night. What lies in the heart of a child in Pakistan matters as much as the airplanes we sell her government. What's in the head of a scientist from Russia can be as lethal as a plutonium reactor in Yongbyon. What's whispered in refugee camps in Chad can be as dangerous as a dictator's bluster. These are the neglected landscapes of the 21st century, where technology and extremism empower individuals just as they give governments the ability to repress them; where the ancient divides of region and religion wash into the swift currents of globalization. Without American leadership, these threats will fester. With strong American leadership, we can shape them into opportunities to protect our common security and advance our common humanity – for it has always been the genius of American leadership to find opportunity embedded in adversity; to focus on a source of fear, and confront it with hope.

Here are just five ways in which a shift in strategy away from Iraq will help us address the critical challenges of the 21st century.

First, in addressing global terror and violent extremism, we need the kind of comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy I called for last August. We need to strengthen security partnerships to take out terrorist networks, while investing in education and opportunity. We need to give our national security agencies the tools they need, while restoring the adherence to rule of law that helps us win the battle for hearts and minds. This means closing Guantanamo, restoring habeas corpus, and respecting civil liberties. And we need to support the forces of moderation in the Islamic world, so that alliances of convenience mature into friendships of conviction.

Second, the threat of nuclear proliferation must serve as a call to action. I have worked across the aisle with Richard Lugar and Chuck Hagel in the Senate to secure dangerous weapons and loose nuclear materials. And as President, I will secure all loose nuclear materials around the world in my first term, seek deep cuts in global nuclear arsenals, strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and once more seek a world without nuclear weapons.

Third, the danger of weak and failed states risks spreading poverty and refugees; genocide and disease. Now is the time to meet the goal of cutting extreme poverty in half, in part by doubling our foreign assistance while demanding more from those who receive it. And now is the time to build the capacity of regional partners in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and the reconstruction of ravaged societies.

Fourth, the catastrophic consequences of the global climate crisis are matched by the promise of collective action. Now is the time for America to lead, because if we take action, others will act as well. Through our own cap and trade system and investments in new sources of energy, we can end our dependence on foreign oil and gas, and free ourselves from the tyranny of oil-rich states from Saudi Arabia to Russia to Venezuela. We can create millions of new jobs here in America. And we can secure our planet for our children and grandchildren.

And fifth, America's sluggish economy risks ceding our economic prominence to a rising China. Competition has always been a catalyst for American innovation, and now should be no different. We must invest in the education of our children, renew our leadership in science, and advance trade that is not just free, but fair for our workers. We must ensure that America is the economic engine in the 21st century just as we were in the 20th.

I have no illusions that any of this will be easy. But I do know that we can only begin to make these changes when we end the mindset that focuses on Iraq and ignores the rest of the world.

I also know that meeting these new threats will require a President who deploys the power of tough, principled diplomacy. It is time to present a country like Iran with a clear choice. If it abandons its nuclear program, support for terror, and threats to Israel, then Iran can rejoin the community of nations – with all the benefits that entails. If not, Iran will face deeper isolation and steeper sanctions. When we engage directly, we will be in a stronger position to rally real international support for increased pressure. We will also engender more goodwill from the Iranian people. And make no mistake – if and when we ever have to use military force against any country, we must exert the power of American diplomacy first.

Once again, Senator Clinton, Senator McCain, and President Bush have made the same arguments against my position on diplomacy, as if reading from the same political playbook. They say I'll be penciling the world's dictators on to my social calendar. But just as they are misrepresenting my position, they are mistaken in standing up for a policy of not talking that is not working. What I've said is that we cannot seize opportunities to resolve our problems unless we create them. That is what Kennedy did with Khrushchev; what Nixon did with Mao; what Reagan did with Gorbachev. And that is what I will do as President of the United States.

What I have talked about today is a new strategy, a new set of priorities for pursuing our interests in the 21st century. And as President, I will provide the tools required to implement this strategy. When President Truman put the policy of containment in place, he also invested in and organized our government to carry it out – creating the National Security Council and the CIA, and founding NATO. Now, we must upgrade our tools of power to fit a new strategy.

That starts with enhancing the finest military in the history of the world. As Commander in Chief, I will begin by giving a military overstretched by Iraq the support it needs. It is time to reduce the strain on our troops by completing the effort to increase our ground forces by 65,000 soldiers and 27,000 Marines, while ensuring the quality of our troops. In an age marked by technology, it is the people of our military – our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen – who bear the responsibility for complex missions. That is why we need to ensure adequate training and time home between deployments. That is why we need to expand our Special Forces. And that is why we must increase investments in capabilities like civil affairs and training foreign militaries.

But we cannot place the burden of a new national security strategy on our military alone. We must integrate our diplomatic, information, economic and military power. That is why, as soon as I take office, I will call for a National Strategy and Security Review, to help determine a 21st Century inter-agency structure to integrate the elements of our national power.

In addition, I will invest in our civilian capacity to operate alongside our troops in post-conflict zones and on humanitarian and stabilization missions. Instead of shuttering consulates in tough corners of the world, it's time to grow our Foreign Service and to expand USAID. Instead of giving up on the determination of young people to serve, it's time to double the size of our Peace Corps. Instead of letting people learn about America from enemy propaganda, it's time to recruit, train, and send out into the world an America's Voice Corps.

And while we strengthen our own capacity, we must strengthen the capability of the international community. We honor NATO's sacrifice in Afghanistan, but we must strive to make it a larger and more nimble alliance. We must work with powers like Russia and China, but we must also speak up for human rights and democracy – and we can start now by speaking out for the human rights and religious freedom of the people of Tibet. And while we are frustrated by the UN, we must invest in its capability to keep the peace, resolve disputes, monitor disarmament, and support good governance around the world – and that depends on a more engaged United States.

We are at a defining moment in our history.

We can choose the path of unending war and unilateral action, and sap our strength and standing. We can choose the path of disengagement, and cede our leadership. Or, we can meet fear and danger head-on with hope and strength; with common purpose as a united America; and with common cause with old

allies and new partners.

What we've seen these last few years is what happens when the rigid ideology and dysfunctional politics of Washington is projected abroad. An ideology that does not fit the shape of the times cannot shape events in foreign countries. A politics that is based on fear and division does not allow us to call on the world to hope, and keeps us from coming together as one people, as one nation, to write the next great chapter in the American story.

We also know that there is another face of America that we have seen these last five years. From down the road at Fort Bragg, our soldiers have gone abroad with a greater sense of common purpose than their leaders in Washington. They have learned the lessons of the 21st century's wars. And they have shown a sense of service and selflessness that represents the very best of the American character.

This must be the election when we stand up and say that we will serve them as well as they have served us. This must be the election when America comes together behind a common purpose on behalf of our security and our values. That is what we do as Americans. It's how we founded a republic based on freedom, and faced down fascism. It's how we defended democracy through a Cold War, and shined a light of hope bright enough to be seen in the darkest corners of the world.

When America leads with principle and pragmatism, hope can triumph over fear. It is time, once again, for America to lead.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Five Years After the Iraq War (2008-03-19 17:57)

Barack Obama sent out this email today.

Dear Paul,

✖ Five years ago today, President George W. Bush launched a war that should never have been authorized based on faulty premises and bad intelligence.

This war has now lasted longer than World War I , World War II , or the Civil War.

Nearly four thousand Americans have given their lives. Thousands more have been wounded. Even under the best-case scenarios, this war will cost American taxpayers well over a trillion dollars.

And where are we for all of this sacrifice?

We are less safe and less able to shape events abroad. We are divided at home, and our alliances around the world have been strained. The threats of a new century have roiled the waters of peace and stability, and yet America remains anchored in Iraq .

I am running for President because it's time to turn the page on a failed ideology and a fundamentally flawed political strategy, so that we can make pragmatic judgments to keep our country safe.

That's what I did when I stood up and opposed this war from the start and said that we needed to finish the fight against al Qaeda . And that's what I'll do as President of the United States.

Please take a few minutes to read my strategy for ending the war in Iraq and making America safer. I hope you will sign on and show your support:

<http://my.barackobama.com/fiveyearsater>

Senator Clinton says that she and Senator McCain have passed a "Commander-in-Chief test" – not because of the judgments they've made, but because of the years they've spent in Washington .

She made a similar argument when she said her vote for war was based on her experience at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

But here is the stark reality: there is a security gap in this country – a gap between the rhetoric of those who claim to be tough on national security, and the reality of growing insecurity caused by their decisions.

It is time to have a debate with Senator McCain about the future of our national security. And the way to win that debate and keep America safe is to offer a clear contrast – a clean break from the failed policies and politics of the past.

Nowhere is that break more badly needed than in Iraq .

Join me in supporting an end to this war and a plan for a safer America:

<http://my.barackobama.com/fiveyearslater>

The judgment that matters most on Iraq – and on any decision to deploy military force – is the judgment made first.

If you believe we are fighting the right war, then the problems we face are purely tactical in nature. That is what Senator McCain wants to discuss – tactics. What he and the Administration have failed to present is an overarching strategy: how the war in Iraq enhances our long-term security, or will in the future.

That's why this Administration cannot answer the simple question posed by Senator John Warner in hearings last year: Are we safer because of this war? And that is why Senator McCain can argue – as he did last year – that we couldn't leave Iraq because violence was up, and then argue this year that we can't leave Iraq because violence is down.

When you have no overarching strategy, there is no clear definition of success.

Success comes to be defined as the ability to maintain a flawed policy indefinitely. Here is the truth: fighting a war without end will not force the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own future. And fighting in a war without end will not make the American people safer.

When I am Commander-in-Chief, I will set a new goal on Day One: I will end this war. Not because politics compels it. Not because our troops cannot bear the burden – as heavy as it is. But because it is the right thing to do for our national security, and it will ultimately make us safer.

Show your support for a clear strategy to end the war in Iraq and focus our national security efforts on making America safer:

<http://my.barackobama.com/fiveyearslater>

Here are the core elements of my strategy to address our critical national security challenges in the 21st century:

- End the war in Iraq, removing our troops at a pace of 1 to 2 combat brigades per month;
- Finally finish the fight against the Taliban , root out al Qaeda and invest in the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan , while making aid to the Pakistani government conditional;
- Act aggressively to stop nuclear proliferation and to secure all loose nuclear materials around the world;
- Double our foreign assistance to cut extreme poverty in half;
- Invest in a clean energy future to wean the U.S. off of foreign oil and to lead the world against the threat of global climate change;
- Rebuild our military capability by increasing the number of soldiers, marines, and special forces troops, and insist on adequate training and time off between deployments;

- Renew American diplomacy by talking to our adversaries as well as our friends; increasing the size of the Foreign Service and the Peace Corps; and creating an America's Voice Corps.

Please take a minute to show your support for this plan:

<http://my.barackobama.com/fiveyearsater>

We are at a defining moment in our history.

This must be the election when America comes together behind a common purpose on behalf of our security and our values.

That is what we do as Americans. It's how we founded a republic based on freedom, and faced down fascism. It's how we defended democracy through a Cold War , and shined a light of hope bright enough to be seen in the darkest corners of the world.

When America leads with principle and pragmatism, hope can triumph over fear. It is time, once again, for America to lead.

Thank you,

Barack Obama

 [EMBED]

Barack Obama during his speech today, March 19, 2008, on the Iraq War and John McCain in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack in North Carolina (2008-03-20 12:34)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama reminds supporters to register to vote in North Carolina by April 11.

[EMBED]

Barack gives an address on national security in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bill Richardson endorses Barack Obama (2008-03-21 06:48)

Gov. Bill Richardson sent out an email last night endorsing Sen. Barack Obama for president.

Richardson also called on other Democrats to rally behind Obama, so the focus can be turned to winning in November.

Here is a copy of Richardson's endorsement email to his supporters.

Dear Friend,

During the last year, I have shared with you my vision and hopes for this nation as we look to repair the damage of the last seven years. And you have shared your support, your ideas and your encouragement

to my campaign. We have been through a lot together and that is why I wanted to tell you that, after careful and thoughtful deliberation, I have made a decision to endorse Barack Obama for President. We are blessed to have two great American leaders and great Democrats running for President. My affection and admiration for Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton will never waver. It is time, however, for Democrats to stop fighting amongst ourselves and to prepare for the tough fight we will face against John McCain in the fall. The 1990's were a decade of peace and prosperity because of the competent and enlightened leadership of the Clinton administration, but it is now time for a new generation of leadership to lead America forward. Barack Obama will be a historic and a great President, who can bring us the change we so desperately need by bringing us together as a nation here at home and with our allies abroad.

Earlier this week, Senator Barack Obama gave a historic speech. that addressed the issue of race with the eloquence, sincerity, and optimism we have come to expect of him. He inspired us by reminding us of the awesome potential residing in our own responsibility. He asked us to rise above our racially divided past, and to seize the opportunity to carry forward the work of many patriots of all races, who struggled and died to bring us together.

As a Hispanic, I was particularly touched by his words. I have been troubled by the demonization of immigrants—specifically Hispanics— by too many in this country. Hate crimes against Hispanics are rising as a direct result and now, in tough economic times, people look for scapegoats and I fear that people will continue to exploit our racial differences—and place blame on others not like them . We all know the real culprit – the disastrous economic policies of the Bush Administration!

Senator Obama has started a discussion in this country long overdue and rejects the politics of pitting race against race. He understands clearly that only by bringing people together, only by bridging our differences can we all succeed together as Americans.

His words are those of a courageous, thoughtful and inspiring leader, who understands that a house divided against itself cannot stand. And, after nearly eight years of George W. Bush, we desperately need such a leader.

To reverse the disastrous policies of the last seven years, rebuild our economy, address the housing and mortgage crisis, bring our troops home from Iraq and restore America's international standing, we need a President who can bring us together as a nation so we can confront our urgent challenges at home and abroad.

During the past year, I got to know Senator Obama as we campaigned against each other for the Presidency, and I felt a kinship with him because we both grew up between worlds, in a sense, living both abroad and here in America. In part because of these experiences, Barack and I share a deep sense of our nation's special responsibilities in the world.

So, once again, thank you for all you have done for me and my campaign. I wanted to make sure you understood my reasons for my endorsement of Senator Obama. I know that you, no matter what your choice, will do so with the best interests of this nation, in your heart.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson

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X

[EMBED]

Barack Obama discusses the burgeoning costs of the Iraq War and the effect on the ailing economy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Hersh Chaturvedi (2008-03-21 11:59:00)

I think the passions that Obama arouses are curiously textured on both the sides– those who write him off do so for reasons as insufficient as those who embrace him. he is NOT the Messiah, but nor is he the Pretender– at least any more than Bush (who appeared dimwitted but reliable, "shrub"), or Clinton (who was brilliant, but unreliable, "slick") were.

Actually, it is, in part, a "white boy" fatigue that lifts Obama's boat. Not that there is anything racial about it.

Obama's most impassioned followers transfer ages of (partly imagined) burden, and see him as the benevolent exponent who'd score a symbolic victory over generations of (partly imagined) inequities. His biggest appeal is in being un-white, un-Clinton-usqu, -un-GeorgeBush-like, and in many ways, being a cool-dude. What is surprising is how it is mainly independents and intellectuals who suffer from this politician fatigue, and let their emotions drive them Obam-nuts. I, too, support him.

His worst detractors, apart from being rabid anti-Democratic politically, are also, surprisingly, blase because they are political realists. They don't dislike the man, just the warmth and halo that surround him, and poison real-politik, with hope and fervor. That is this countries main problem. Political realism. Unlike in Pakistan, and Georgia, and Kenya, where people elevate elections to a crusade for the moral and the just, in the US it is just a leap-year exercise.

Obama threatens to make it more than just that.

<http://vishvamarayam.blogspot.com/>

(2008-03-21 06:48)

Gov. Bill Richardson sent out an email last night endorsing Sen. Barack Obama for president.

Richardson also called on other Democrats to rally behind Obama, so that efforts

Video: Bill Richardson's Endorsement (2008-03-21 14:24)

[EMBED]

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, sporting a new beard, endorses Barack Obama today, Mar. 21, 2008, at a rally in Portland, Oregon.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama thanks Bill Richarson in Portland after receiving the latter's endorsement.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

New TV ads air in Pennsylvania (2008-03-21 16:00)

Check out two of three ads the Obama campaign is airing in Pennsylvania.

[EMBED]

This ad entitled "Toughest," talks about Barack Obama's work on ethics reform including banning gifts, meals and other favors, and how his campaign has refused contributions from lobbyists.

[EMBED]

Barack talks about his background in "Opportunity."

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X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

More Voices Video (Registering Voters) (2008-03-22 09:14)

Joe Carson of the Obama campaign sent out this email to supporters today:

X

Paul –

Barack talked earlier this week about bridging divides and bringing people together to solve our common problems.

That's not just the theme of this campaign – it's been the theme of his life's work.

When Barack came back to Chicago after law school, he led a voter registration drive to attract people to the political process.

The deadline to register to vote in Pennsylvania is fast approaching – Monday, March 24. This is the last opportunity for Pennsylvanians who are unregistered – as well as Independents and Republicans – to register as Democrats so they can support Barack in the primary.

Watch this short video about Barack's voter registration efforts and start making calls to help register Pennsylvanians right away:



<http://my.barackobama.com/morevoicesvideo>

Registering voters and bringing more voices into the political process is what this campaign is all about.

In the ten contests left in this race, we have an opportunity to build a base of support that will lead Democrats to victory up and down the ballot in November.

But more importantly, we have the chance to transform our party and our politics. Our next opportunity is Pennsylvania .

By bringing in new voters and encouraging voters who have gotten fed up to get involved again, we can move beyond the divisive and petty tactics that have dominated our politics for far too long. We can send a message that we're ready for something new – something positive that brings us together around a shared goal of a better future for all Americans.

You can help build our movement and create a lasting change in our party and in our country.

Start making calls for this historic drive to register Pennsylvania voters:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callPAvoters>

One of the special things about this campaign is that it's inspired people from all walks of life to take action.

Supporters are organizing in their neighborhoods and traveling across the country to help register voters. People like you are making calls to crucial states and talking to potential voters about a new kind of leadership and a new kind of politics.

There are ten contests left in this race, and we can set the tone for all of them in Pennsylvania . Your voice can make a difference in how they turn out. You can have an important impact on the direction of the Democratic Party and politics in this country.

Be a voice for change and bring more voices into the political process:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callPAvoters>

Thank you for everything you're doing,

Jon

Jon Carson
National Voter Contact Director
Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-03-22 12:25)

From barackobama.com :

Obama Statement Congratulating Taiwanese President-Elect Ma Ying-Jeou
by Sam Graham-Felsen
, Saturday, March 22, 2008 at 11:56 AM

CHICAGO, IL – Senator Barack Obama issued the following statement on the results of Taiwan’s Presidential election:

On March 22, the people of Taiwan went to the polls for the fourth time in 12 years to elect their President. I offer my congratulations to President-elect Ma for his victory, and best wishes for his presidency.

The people of Taiwan deserve our respect and admiration for this free and fair election, which is just the latest step in consolidating a democracy that has advanced over the last two decades. I hope the People’s Republic of China responds to this election in a positive, constructive, and forward-leaning way. It is important for Beijing to demonstrate to the people of Taiwan that the practical and non-confrontational approach that President-elect Ma promises to take toward the Mainland will be met with good faith and progress. The PRC should reduce the military threat to Taiwan by drawing back the missiles it has deployed in southeast China and by other security confidence-building measures. And on issues such as Taiwan’s observer status in the World Health Organization, where the health of all Chinese people is at stake, it should allow Taiwan greater international space.

The United States should respond to Ma Ying-jeou’s election by rebuilding a relationship of trust and support for Taiwan’s democracy. The U.S. should reopen blocked channels of communication with Taiwan officials. We should continue to provide the arms necessary for Taiwan to deter possible aggression. And we should encourage both Taipei and Beijing to build commercial, cultural, and other ties, laying the groundwork for a closer relationship and ultimately movement toward resolution of their differences. We should maintain our “one China” policy, our adherence to the three U.S.-PRC Joint Communiques concerning Taiwan, and observance of the Taiwan Relations Act, which lays out the legal basis for our relationship.

March 22nd was a good day for the people of Taiwan, for the forces of democracy around the world, and for peace and stability in the western Pacific. I will do all that I can to support Taiwan’s democracy in the years ahead.

[EMBED]

In 1992, Barack Obama led Project Vote, a full-scale voter registration campaign that helped Bill Clinton's presidential campaign.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama in the General Electon (2008-03-23 13:34)

There's no need paying attention to the polls this early. Despite the great turnout during the primary, you can expect larger participation during the general election this fall.

Yes, a lot of people do not bother to vote during the primary. Many of them will vote during the general election, when they will start to take notice of who's running. At that time, the polls will begin to shift. Even into the last week and last few days it is not unusual to see the polls swinging in competitive races.

I have a nagging suspicion also that a lot of Barack and Hillary supporters that are getting polled might fib when asked about supporting the other candidate in the general election. They want their choice to look better against McCain.

It's hard to imagine that either Democrat would not be favored against McCain in November. The energy on the Democratic side is tremendous. Fundraising and turnout is breaking records at every turn. People are tired of Iraq and the economy, seen widely as a Bush economy, is seriously ailing.

John McCain also is not exactly the darling of conservative Republicans. Although they're trying to look unified, there are some doubts about their ability to energize the base of the party.

The race might end up becoming a fight for independent voters and this area John McCain has been very strong. Of the two Democrats, Barack has done much better at drawing support from independents. He also has the best organized campaign of the three current contenders.

So no need to worry about November now. The focus is now is getting the delegates for Barack to win the nomination.

[EMBED]

Barack talks about gas prices and energy policy in Beckley, West Virginia on March 20.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-03-25 15:38:00)

I heard a report today that Hillary's "misspoken" comments about being exposed to sniper fire in Bosnia may have been partly due to sleep deprivation. I was wondering, is that the kind of person who should be answering phone calls in the White House at 3:00 AM?

Barack Obama's letter to Ben Bernanke (2008-03-24 08:44)

Correction: Actually this letter that I lifted off the barackobama.com blog, was sent a year ago, and Hillary Clinton is offering a similar proposal today.

Sen. Barack Obama sent a letter today to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. The stresses the senator's grave concern over the impact of the housing crisis on low-income communities. He urges Bernanke to convene an "homeownership preservation summit" to tackle the problem of runaway home foreclosures occurring throughout the country.

Here is a copy of the letter.

March 22, 2007

The Honorable Ben Bernanke

Chairman

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20551

The Honorable Henry Paulson

Secretary

U.S. Department of Treasury

1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Chairman Bernanke and Secretary Paulson,

There is grave concern in low-income communities about a potential coming wave of foreclosures. Because regulators are partly responsible for creating the environment that is leading to rising rates of home foreclosure in the subprime mortgage market, I urge you immediately to convene a homeownership preservation summit with leading mortgage lenders, investors, loan servicing organizations, consumer advocates, federal regulators and housing-related agencies to assess options for private sector responses to the challenge.

We cannot sit on the sidelines while increasing numbers of American families face the risk of losing their homes. And while neither the government nor the private sector acting alone is capable of quickly balancing the important interests in widespread access to credit and responsible lending, both must act and act quickly.

Working together, the relevant private sector entities and regulators may be best positioned for quick and targeted responses to mitigate the danger. Rampant foreclosures are in nobody's interest, and I believe this is a case where all responsible industry players can share the objective of eliminating deceptive or abusive practices, preserving homeownership, and stabilizing housing markets.

The summit should consider best practice loan marketing, underwriting, and origination practices consistent with the recent (and overdue) regulators' Proposed Statement on Subprime Mortgage Lending. The summit participants should also evaluate options for independent loan counseling, voluntary loan restructuring, limited forbearance, and other possible workout strategies. I would also urge you to facilitate a serious conversation about the following:

What standards investors should require of lenders, particularly with regard to verification of income and

assets and the underwriting of borrowers based on fully indexed and fully amortized rates.
How to facilitate and encourage appropriate intervention by loan servicing companies at the earliest signs of borrower difficulty.
How to support independent community-based-organizations to provide counseling and work-out services to prevent foreclosure and preserve homeownership where practical.
How to provide more effective information disclosure and financial education to ensure that borrowers are treated fairly and that deception is never a source of competitive advantage.
How to adopt principles of fair competition that promote affordability, transparency, non-discrimination, genuine consumer value, and competitive returns.
How to ensure adequate liquidity across all mortgage markets without exacerbating consumer and housing market vulnerability.

Of course, the adoption of voluntary industry reforms will not preempt government action to crack down on predatory lending practices, or to style new restrictions on subprime lending or short-term post-purchase interventions in certain cases. My colleagues on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs have held important hearings on mortgage market turmoil and I expect the Committee will develop legislation.

Nevertheless, a consortium of industry-related service providers and public interest advocates may be able to bring quick and efficient relief to millions of at-risk homeowners and neighborhoods, even before Congress has had an opportunity to act. There is an opportunity here to bring different interests together in the best interests of American homeowners and the American economy. Please don't let this opportunity pass us by.

Sincerely,
Barack Obama
United States Senator



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sanjizzles (2008-03-24 15:31:00)
I've been reading your blog from time to time and yesterday it inspired me to start this petition:
<http://www.timetoconcede.com>
Please sign it and spread the word!

Have Dinner with Barack (2008-03-24 18:19)

I got this email message from campaign manager David Plouffe today. They will be having another dinner in which Barack hosts four supporters. Two will be selected from people who contribute between now and Monday.

Too many political fundraisers are hosted by Washington lobbyists and filled with representatives of special interests.

Our campaign is different.

Our funding comes from a movement of more than one million people giving whatever they can afford – and Barack wants to sit down with supporters like you.

If you've ever thought about making a donation to join our campaign, now is the time.

In the next week, four supporters will be selected for a different kind of fundraising dinner. And we're reserving two of those seats for new donors like you.

Make a donation in any amount between now and 11:59 pm EDT on Monday, March 31st, and you could join Barack and three other supporters for an intimate dinner for five:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner> Our movement is changing the way campaigns are funded.

This campaign has never taken contributions from Washington lobbyists or political action committees.

More than one million donors have demonstrated that this election is about more than a candidate – it's about each of us having a personal stake in the future of American politics.

This dinner is an opportunity for you to sit down with Barack and your fellow supporters and talk about the issues that matter to you.

Get the kind of treatment other politicians reserve for special interests. Make a donation in the next week, and you could share your story and your ideas with Barack in person:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/dinner>

With every donation, we're building a movement to change American politics.

Help the movement grow, and own a piece of this campaign today.

Thanks for your support,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

✕

[EMBED]

The first dinner with Barack Obama in July, 2007.

✕

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Calling Texas Delegates (2008-03-25 16:15)

From barackobama.com :

Back to Texas: Calling Delegates

by Christopher Hass

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 10:51 AM



The next stage of the Texas caucus is this Saturday, March 29th. At the county conventions, district delegates will meet to elect county delegates and move one step closer to finalizing the Texas results.

Turn-out for the initial March 4th caucuses was huge, and Barack won a decisive majority of the over 80,000 district delegates that were elected that night. But that was only the beginning. Attendance at the county convention is just as critical, and we're following up with every delegate to make sure they know when and where to go on Saturday, and to find alternates where needed.

The more Obama delegates we're able to connect with, the better prepared we'll be on Saturday.

But we can't do it without your help. You can maximize Barack's support at the county conventions today, right from your home.

You can call Obama delegates and alternates using our online phone banking tool, and help us prepare for Saturday's conventions.

As we saw just weeks ago in Iowa, organization and participation are key at every stage of a caucus. With the help of your calls to Iowa, we were not only able to secure our delegates — we were able to expand our lead.

Now we need your help calling the thousands of Texas delegates and alternates to help finish the work we started and secure our delegate win in Texas.

Help call Texas delegates now.

[EMBED]

Obama Girl asks Hillary to please step aside

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-10-21 06:57:35)

True phrase

List of Available Superdelegates (2008-03-26 11:53)

Here is a list of superdelegates who have not endorsed a candidate yet taken from Democratic Convention Watch today. Some have links to contact information.

Certain superdelegates can be found at social networking sites like LinkedIn and Facebook.

Superdelegates highlighted in red are from Michigan or Florida and do not count toward the nomination at this time.

Representatives

Bud Cramer (AL)
Harry Mitchell (AZ)
Gabrielle Giffords (AZ)
Nancy Pelosi (CA)
Jerry McNerney (CA)
Pete Stark (CA)
Mike Honda (CA)
Sam Farr (CA)
Jim Costa (CA)
Lois Capps (CA)
Howard Berman (CA)
Henry Waxman (CA)
Bob Filner (CA)
Susan Davis (CA)
Mark Udall (CO)
John Salazar (CO)
Joe Courtney (CT)

Allen Boyd (FL)
Tim Mahoney (FL)
Ron Klein (FL) Jim Marshall (GA)
Mazie Hirono (HI)
Rahm Emanuel (IL)
Dan Lipinski (IL)
Andre Carson (IN)
Peter Visclosky (IN)

Joe Donnelly (IN)
Brad Ellsworth (IN)
Baron Hill (IN)

Rep. Bruce Braley (IA)
Nancy Boyda (KS)
Dennis Moore (KS)
Ben Chandler (KY)
William Jefferson (LA)
Charlie Melancon (LA)
Tom Allen (ME)

Rep. Michael Michaud (ME)
John Sarbanes (MD)
Steny Hoyer (MD)
Chris Van Hollen (MD)
John Olver (MA)
Niki Tsongas (MA)
John Tierney (MA)
Edward Markey (MA)
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI)

Rep. Bart Stupak
(MI)
Collin Peterson (MN)

Gene Taylor (MS)
Ike Skelton (MO)
Rep. Rush Holt (NJ)

Rep. Bob Etheridge
(NC)

Rep. Mike McIntyre
(NC)

Rep. Brad Miller
(NC)

Rep. David Price
(NC)

Rep. Heath Shuler
(NC)

Rep. Mel Watt (NC) Rep. Tom Udall (NM)
Charlie Wilson (OH)

Marcia Kaptur (OH)
Betty Sutton (OH)
Tim Ryan (OH)

Rep. Zack Space (OH)
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (OH)
Rep. Dan Boren (OK)
David Wu (OR)
Peter DeFazio (OR)
Bob Brady (PA)
Jason Altmire (PA)
Chris Carney (PA)
Tim Holden (PA)
Rep. Mike Doyle (PA)
John Spratt (SC)
Rep. Jim Clyburn (SC)

Lincoln Davis (TN)
Bart Gordon (TN)
John Tanner (TN)
Nick Lampson (TX)

Ciro Rodriguez (TX)

Jim Matheson (UT)
Rick Larsen (WA)
Jim McDermott (WA)
Alan Mollohan (WV)

Madeleine Bordallo (Guam)

Presidents & VPs

Jimmy Carter (GA)
Al Gore (TN)

Senators

Ken Salazar (CO)
Joe Biden (DE)

Tom Carper (DE)

Daniel Akaka (HI)
Tom Harkin (IA)
Mary Landrieu (LA)
Ben Cardin (MD)

Carl Levin (MI) Amy Klobuchar (MN)
Max Baucus (MT)
Jon Tester (MT)
Harry Reid (NV)
Frank Lautenberg (NJ)
Sherrod Brown (OH)

Ron Wyden (OR)
Bob Casey (PA)
Jack Reed (RI)
Jim Webb (VA)
Robert Byrd (WV)
Herb Kohl (WI)

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (NM)
Fmr. Senator George Mitchell (NY)

Governors

Bill Ritter (CO)
Steve Beshear (KY)
Brian Schweitzer (MT)
John Lynch (NH)
Mike Easley (NC)
Brad Henry (OK)
Phil Bredeson (TN)
Joe Manchin (WV)
Dave Freudenthal (WY)

Add-Ons

Mark Wilcox (AR) #

Reggie Whitten (OK) #

Vicki Harwell (TN) #

Jerry Lee (TN) #

71 Unnamed Add-Ons

DNC Members

Howard Dean - Chairman (VT)
Lottie Shackleford (AR)
Linda Chavez -Thompson (TX)
Susan Turnbull (MD)

Mark Brewer (MI)

Andrew Tobias (FL) Alice Germond (WV)
Philip D. Murphy (NJ)

Alabama

Joe Turnham (AL)
Nancy Worley (AL)

Alaska

Blake Johnson (AK)
Cindy Spanyers (AK)

Arizona Don Bivens (AZ)
Vacant (AZ)

California Art Torres (CA)
Steven Alari (CA)
Edward Espinoza
(CA)

Inola Henry
(CA)

Hon. Carole Migden
(CA)

Bob Mulholland
(CA)

Christine Pelosi
(CA)

Robert Rankin
(CA)

Keith Umemoto
(CA)

Steve Ybarra
(CA)

John Perez
(CA)

Colorado Pat Waak - CO Chair
Connecticut Nancy DiNardo - CT Chair
John Olsen

Delaware John Daniello - DE Chair
Harriet Smith-Windsor - DE Vice Chair

Florida
Karen Thurman - FL Chair
Rudolph Parker - FL Vice Chair Terrie Brady
Mitchell Ceasar
Diane Glasser
Janee Murphy

Jon Ausman (FL)
Georgia Richard Ray (GA)

Hawaii Beverly Withington (HA)
Joshua Wisch (HA)
Dr. Marie Dolly Strazar (HA)

Idaho

Keith Roark (ID)

Illinois Vacant (IL)

Iowa Scott Brennan (IA)

Richard Machacek (IA)

Kansas Larry Gates (KS)

Helen Knetzer (KS)

Kentucky Jennifer Moore - Chair

Nathan Smith - Vice Chair

DNC

Moretta Bosley (KY)

Louisiana Chris Whittington - LA Chair

Claude "Buddy" Leach

Maine Sam Spencer

Jennifer DeChant

Maryland

Michael Cryor - MD Chair

Lauren Glover - MD Vice Chair

Hon. Heather Mizeur

Hon. Gregory Pecoraro

Massachusetts Debra Kozikowski

Michigan

Arthenia Abbott - MI Vice Chair

Elizabeth Bunn

Debbie Dingell

Hon. Robert Ficano

Joyce Lalonde

Jeffrey Radjewski

Michael Tardiff

Richard Wiener

Minnesota

Nancy Larson

Mississippi Wayne Dowdy - Chair

Carnelia Pettis Fondren - Vice Chair

Missouri

John Temporiti - Chair
Yolanda Wheat - Vice Chair
Leila Medley

Montana Dennis McDonald - MT Chair

Hon. Margaret Campbell - MT Vice Chair
Jean Lemire Dahlman

Nebraska Steven Achelpohl - NE Chair
Audra Ostergard (NE)

Nevada Sam Lieberman - NV Chair

New Hampshire Raymond Buckley

New Mexico

Brian Colon

New York Hon. Herman Farrell Jr.

Irene Stein

North Carolina

Jerry Meek (NC)

Dr. Jeanette Council (NC)

David Parker (NC)

Muriel Offerman (NC)

Carol Peterson (NC)

North Dakota David Strauss (ND)

Ohio Hon. Chris Redfern - OH Chair

William Burga

Enid Goubeaux

Ronald Malone

Patricia Moss

Oklahoma Ivan Holmes

Jim Frasier

DNC Members (cont'd)

Oregon

Meredith Woods-Smith (OR)

Frank Dixon (OR)

Jenny Greenleaf (OR)

Wayne Kinney (OR)

Pennsylvania

Hon. Ronald Donatucci (PA)

William George (PA)

Hon. Sophie Masloff (PA)

South Carolina

Wilbur Lee Jeffcoat (SC)

Hon. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (SC)

South Dakota

Cheryl Chapman (SD)

Tennessee

Gray Sasser (TN)

Dr. Inez Crutchfield (TN)

Texas

Boyd Richie - TX Chair

Hon. Al Edwards

Jaime Gonzalez Jr.

DNC Denise Johnson (TX)

John Patrick

Betty Richie

Utah

Wayne Holland Jr. - UT Chair

Virginia

Jim Leaman

C Richard Cranwell

Washington DC

Anita Bonds - DC Chair

Washington

Dwight Pelz - WA Chair

Eileen Macoll - WA Vice Chair

Ed Cote

Sharon Mast

David McDonald

West Virginia

Nick Casey Jr. - WV Chair

Wisconsin

Lena Taylor - WI Vice Chair

Paula Zellner

Wyoming Nancy Drummond - WY Vice Chair

Cynthia Nunley

Democrats Abroad * Christine Marques - Chair

Theresa Morelli

Guam Antonio Charfauros - Chair

Cecilia Mafnas - Vice Chair

Taling Taitano

Hon. Robert Underwood

Puerto Rico

Luisette Cabana - Vice Chair

Virgin Islands

Marylyn Stapleton - Vice Chair

Carol Burke

Members -At-Large

Lu Battaglieri (MI) Donna Brazile (DC)

Hon. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (MO)

Larry Cohen (DC)

Ralph Dawson (NY)

Kalyn Free (OK)

John Gage (MD)

Hon. Yvonne Gates (NV)

Janice Griffin (MD)

Hon. Alexis Herman (VA)

Joe Johnson (VA)

Belkis Leong-Hong (MD)

Robert Martinez (TX)

Jay Parmley (OK)

Gail Rasmussen (OR)

James Roosevelt Jr (MA)

Eliseo Roques-Arroyo (PR)

Richard Shoemaker (MI) Edward Smith (IL)

John Sweeney (MD)

Vernon Watkins (CA)

Jerome Wiley Segovia (VA)

Vacant - 1
Vacant - 2

Former DNC Chairmen Roy Romer (CO)
Bob Strauss (TX)
Paul Kirk (MA)

Nat'l Conf. of Dem. Mayors
Hon. Kwame Kilpatrick (MI)

Mayor Brenda Lawrence (MI)
Dem. Assoc. of SoS Hon. Robin Carnahan (MO)
Hon. Bill Bradbury (OR)

Nat'l Assoc of Dem State Treasurers

Dem. Leg. Campaign Comm. Hon. Joyce Beatty (OH)
Mike Morgan (OK)

Nat'l Dem. County Officials
Eric Coleman (MI)

Nat'l Fed. of Dem. Women
Virgie Rollins (MI)

College Dems of America
Lauren Wolfe (MI) Awais Khaleel (WI)

Young Dems of America Crystal Strait (CA)

DNC David Hardt (TX)
Dem Assoc. of Atty Gen. Hon. Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)

Nat'l Dem Ethnic Coord. Comm. Christine Warnke (DC)

Nat'l Dem. Seniors Coord. Comm. John Melcher (MT)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Obama on McCain-omics (2008-03-26 17:18)

It's hard to believe the news that Hillary Clinton is now trying to convince pledged delegates to ignore the will of the people and vote for Hillary.

Well at least we have this great video from North Carolina of Barack Obama talking about John McCain's policy on the economy and the housing crisis.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Warms to Wrapping Up Contest (2008-03-26 19:34)

Barack Obama has expressed support for speeding up the nomination process in responding to a plan by Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. The eventual nominee should benefit from having a few extra months to prepare for the November election.

From The Caucus, the political blog of the New York Times.

March 26, 2008, 7:26 pm

Obama Warms to Wrapping Up Contest

By Patrick Healy

ABOARD THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN PLANE – Senator Barack Obama this evening called Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen's proposal of resolving the Democratic nomination contest in June "a good one" – although Mr. Obama seemed to be endorsing a June wrap-up more than the governor's specific plan to let superdelegates caucus to choose either Mr. Obama or Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I think giving whoever the nominee is two or three months to pivot into the general election would be extremely helpful, instead of having this drag up to the convention," Mr. Obama told reporters as he flew from Greensboro, N.C., to New York City.

Mr. Obama holds a combined delegate lead over Mrs. Clinton and has been adding more superdelegates to his column at a faster clip than she has. Mrs. Clinton, meanwhile, has indicated that she is willing to slug it out for the nomination through the summer, and is counting on some sort of Obama collapse or other game-changing development to drive superdelegates into her camp.

In response to other questions, Mr. Obama said that he had no beef with Bill Clinton's comments today that the Obama and Clinton camps should "just saddle up and have an argument." But he added that one of his goals in politics was still "to see if we can change the tenor a little bit so it's more productive." Mr. Obama said he agreed with the thrust of Mr. Clinton's point about the rough-and-tumble of politics, saying it was "a contact sport," though he said he sensed it would be a problem to go too far.

"In Chicago, Harold Washington once said 'politics ain't tiddlewinks,' " Mr. Obama said, referring to that city's former mayor. "And I believe President Clinton was the one who decried 'the politics of personal destruction.' "

"There's a line that can be crossed where you stop focusing on the American people's business and it just becomes about sport." Then he added, "I'm proud of how we've generally conducted ourselves in this campaign – there are some points where I haven't been proud." Read the rest of the article

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2008-03-26 19:34)

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Obama unveils Financial Markets Plan (2008-03-27 10:20)

From barackobama.com:

In Major Speech, Obama Calls for Modernizing Our Regulation of Financial Markets

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 06:43 AM



NEW YORK, NY—In a major economic address at Cooper Union today, Senator Barack Obama called for immediate relief for homeowners hit by the housing crisis, modernization of our regulatory framework, and an additional \$30 billion stimulus package to jumpstart the economy and help protect families from the economic slowdown. As confidence in our financial markets wanes and Americans struggle in the face of a mortgage crisis, Obama stressed the importance of pushing back on the special interests and honoring our obligation to one another—and that doing so is not just a matter of altruism but a matter of self-interest.

“Under Republican and Democratic Administrations, we failed to guard against practices that all too often rewarded financial manipulation instead of productivity and sound business practices,” Senator Obama said. “We let the special interests put their thumbs on the economic scales. The result has been a distorted market that creates bubbles instead of steady, sustainable growth; a market that favors Wall Street over Main Street, but ends up hurting both.”

Obama was introduced at Cooper Union by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a legendary business executive who has shown deep commitment to community and family prosperity as mayor of America’s largest city.

In his speech today, Obama made the case that while markets are the engine of American progress, the government’s role as umpire and steward is critical to the function of the free market. For too long, he said, special interests have been able to bend the rules to maximize their profits on the backs of hardworking Americans.

Obama pledged to restore confidence in the markets, tackle the housing crisis and protect families from the economic slowdown by:

Ø Creating 21st century standards for transparency and oversight of the financial system in order to prevent future abuses and crises.

Ø Providing immediate relief to homeowners hit by the housing crisis.

Ø Enacting a second stimulus package to stabilize and strengthen the economy, provide aid to homeowners and states hardest-hit by the housing crisis, and extend and expand unemployment insurance.

A fact sheet detailing these steps, as well as Obama's principles for modernizing the regulatory framework for our financial markets, can be found [HERE](#).

A document containing statements of support from leading finance experts can be found [HERE](#).

Continue reading for the full speech...



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Appearances in Pennsylvania (2008-03-27 14:34)

Mar 29 Road to Change Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

in Johnstown, PA

Mar 30 Road to Change Rally with Barack Obama

in University Park, PA

Other Events Blair County Office Opening

Thursday, March 27, 2008 @ 6:30pm

Altoona, PA

Allentown Office Opening

Friday, March 28, 2008 @ 6:00pm

Allentown, PA

Philly Young Professionals: Meet Kate Walsh

Friday, March 28, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Philadelphia, PA

Chambersburg Office Opening

Saturday, March 29, 2008 @ 11:00am

Chambersburg, PA

Office Opening in Abington Township

Sunday, March 30, 2008 @ 12:00pm
Abington, PA

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[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Anonymous (2010-03-22 03:00:13)

i very much adore all your writing way, very helpful,
don't give up and keep penning as it just truly worth to look through it.
looking forward to look at a lot more of your current article content, goodbye ;)

Video: Obama speech at Cooper Union (2008-03-27 22:31)

Check out Barack Obama's speech at the Great Hall in Cooper Union, New York City, on the economy and reforming the financial markets. Delivered on March 27, 2008.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Penn. Sen. Bob Casey endorses Barack Obama (2008-03-28 11:34)

✕

By DEVLIN BARRETT, Associated Press Writer 2 hours, 8 minutes ago

PITTSBURGH - Pennsylvania

Sen. Bob Casey endorsed Democrat Barack Obama on Friday, a move that could help the presidential candidate make inroads with white working-class voters dubbed "Casey Democrats" in the Keystone State

.

Appearing on stage beside the Illinois senator, Casey told a boisterous rally, "I believe in my heart that there is one person who's uniquely qualified to lead us in that new direction and that is Barack Obama."

Pennsylvania's April 22 primary will allocate 158 delegates, the biggest single prize left in the drawn-out nomination battle between Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York . Clinton is leading Obama in the state, by 12 points in one poll this month.

Casey is a first-term senator and the son of a popular former governor of the state. Casey is Catholic and, like his father, is known for his opposition to abortion and support of gun rights. His support could help Obama make inroads among Catholic voters, who have preferred Clinton to Obama in earlier primaries and strongly favor her in Pennsylvania polls.

"I really believe that in a time of danger around the world and in division here at home, Barack Obama can lead us, he can heal us, he can help rebuild America," he said.

Obama told the crowd that he had not pushed Casey hard for an endorsement.

"Bob is such a gracious person and such a thoughtful person that I did not press him on this endorsement," especially since Obama trails Clinton in Pennsylvania polls.

"It would have been easy for Bob just to stay out of it, just to stay neutral, I think everybody would have accepted that," Obama said.

Casey said that he called Clinton Thursday night to tell her of his decision.

"She was very gracious. We know that she's a great senator, she's a great leader," Casey said.

Asked by Casey's endorsement, Clinton spokesman Mo Elleithee said, "We're proud of the support we have from across Pennsylvania, including Gov. (Ed) Rendell, several members of Congress and mayors from across the state. We look forward to having his support in the general election as Democrats unite to beat John McCain and to turn our country around."

Clinton's backers in the state include Rep. John Murtha , who was an early advocate of withdrawing from Iraq , and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, who is black.

Meantime, a leading Obama backer, Sen. Patrick Leahy , D-Vt., is saying Clinton should abandon her White House run .

"There is no way that Sen. Clinton is going to win enough delegates to get the nomination," Leahy told Vermont Public Radio in an interview that aired Thursday.

In a statement issued Friday, Leahy, the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman who endorsed Obama in January, said Casey's endorsement of Obama is the latest sign of how the race is going.

"Sen. Clinton has every right, but not a very good reason, to remain a candidate for as long as she wants to. As far as the delegate count and the interests of a Democratic victory in November go, there is not a very good reason for drawing this out. But as I have said before, that is a decision that only she can make," Leahy said.

The Casey endorsement came as Obama began a six-day campaign swing through Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has an estimated 3.8 million Catholics, or just over 30 percent of the state's population, and the percentage among Democrats is estimated to be slightly higher.

Obama's team hopes that Casey will help narrow Clinton's huge lead among white working-class voters — men in particular. Clinton routed Obama among that demographic in Ohio and Texas on March 4, raising questions about his electability in November. In recent weeks, Obama has stressed economic issues important to the middle class, and he is outspending Clinton on television advertising that features blue-collar imagery.

Clinton and her supporters have been making their own direct appeals: backers Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Robert F. Kennedy Jr ., last week wrote a letter to Pennsylvania Catholics emphasizing her plans on health care, mortgage foreclosures and fuel costs. Clinton has been endorsed by Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell , giving her access to his potent political operation.

Obama has lacked a major endorsement by a statewide Pennsylvania politician, and Casey's could help jump-start his Pennsylvania campaign. Casey has close ties to organized labor, which has been divided in Pennsylvania between the two candidates.

Casey had a 62 percent approval rating among Democrats in a recent Quinnipiac University poll .

Casey's move could also be seen as a political jab at the Clintons. Bill Clinton was the Democrats' presidential nominee in 1992 when Casey's father was not given a prime-time speaking position at the party's convention, which outraged many of the state's conservative Democrats.

Casey was to campaign with Obama as he travels across Pennsylvania by bus.

The bus tour will feature "listening sessions," a technique Clinton used in her 2000 Senate campaign to convince skeptical New Yorkers that she was not just a carpetbagger looking for a plum post after leaving the White House .

Obama hopes to prevent Clinton from racking up a large win in the state which could eat away at his delegate advantage and give her new life in the final primaries running to June.

It may be a tough sell for some in the state, which has a sizable elderly population. In the previous primaries, older Democrats have favored Clinton, while younger voters tend toward Obama.

Casey served two four-year terms as state auditor general . He lost a 2002 gubernatorial bid in the Democratic primary to Rendell.

Casey was elected to the Senate in 2006, defeating conservative GOP incumbent Rick Santorum . Obama campaigned for Casey, but so did Clinton and her husband.

Associated Press Writer Kimberly Hefling in Washington contributed to this report.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Sen. Casey endorsement, new TV ad (2008-03-28 17:30)

[EMBED]

On March 28, 2008, at Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum in Pittsburgh, PA, Senator Bob Casey Jr. (PA) endorsed Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

New Pennsylvania TV spot titled "Nothing's Changed."



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Family Ties: Ann Dunham (NBC News) (2008-03-29 13:54)

[EMBED]

NBC Nightly News featured a story last night on Barack Obama's mother, Ann Dunham Soetoro, and how she influenced the presidential candidate.

Btw, if you happen to live in CD 5 (Sacramento, CA), I'm supporting Nathan Osburn, Kim Mack, Serena Kirk, and Cirian Villavicencio as Obama delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

They have been very active in Sacramento for Obama and can be depended on to vote for Barack and not defect to Hillary!

X

Here's their Facebook site:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9918858797>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

SterlingEddie (2008-03-29 19:52:00)

Its funny that Obama does soft interviews only. Well maybe its not funny because a lot of people seem to think he's the second coming. Is he someones Puppet? Why is it that no one get a chance to to do a real interview with him? They all seem to have some kind of short time limit or he's interviewed by a bunch of weman that are more interested in being nice.

Barack Obama leads Texas County Conventions (2008-03-29 20:45)

Texas held county conventions today to confirm the results of the caucus that Barack Obama won earlier this month. With 42.38 % now reporting, Barack is leading 57 % - 43 %.

[EMBED]

Supporters waiting outside of Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and Memorial last night to see Sen. Obama.

Obama Appearances in Pennsylvania Mar 30 Road to Change Rally with Barack Obama

in University Park, PA

Mar 30 Road to Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Harrisburg, PA

Mar 31 Road to Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Lancaster, PA

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama wins Texas Conventions (2008-03-30 11:25)

With most of the vote counted, Barack Obama is now projected to win the Texas Conventions 38 to 29 matching the results of the Mar. 4 caucus.

So, overall Barack ends up with nine more delegates overall as Hillary Clinton won the Texas Primary by four votes. The win in Texas gives Obama supporters hope for an upset victory in Pennsylvania. As in the latter state, Obama was well behind in Texas early on. However, unlike Texas where the campaign had to work in three other states including Ohio, Pennsylvania is all by itself in April.

After PA, the next contest is little Guam two weeks away on May 3, and then three days later North Carolina and Indiana on May 6.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-03-31 21:13:00)

Im 40. Im white. Im a democrat. I have never voted for a republican in my life. If Obama wins the nomination, I will reluctantly have to vote for the Bush clone, John McCain. If Obama wants to spit on unions, good ridence. Sorry fellow Democrats.

Upcoming Obama Events (2008-03-30 19:02)

Mar 30 Road to Change Rally with Barack Obama

in University Park, PA

Mar 30 Road to Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Harrisburg, PA

Mar 31 Road to Change Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Lancaster, PA

Check out the pictures from volunteer meetings at State College in Pennsylvania.



[EMBED]

Video from the rally at Johnstown, PA, last night. Barack answers a question on accountability.

X

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Victor Mundy (2008-03-31 00:30:00)

The Obama Campaign and/or its supporters must flood the internet and the television with anything and everything positive that Reverend Wright has ever said from the pulpit.

The Republicans will see to it that this issue does not fade from people's memory. They will use it to sink the Obama campaign should he gain the nomination. Even if he does not gain the nomination, this same issue will be used to chip away at his political career. They see this as the silver bullet to kill his candidacy, now and in the future.

Has the Reverend Wright ever said anything good about the United States of America? Did he ever preach about forgiveness, the brotherhood of man, the forgiveness of sin or any other positive message? Does anyone have any of his positive sermons on DVD? If so, I beg you to release some of those positive sermons to the press and youtube.com. The best way to counter balance the constant portrayal of Reverend Wright as a bitter accuser of the country is to publicize his positive words. Any positive words.

Make and Impact in March (2008-03-31 10:21)

Sen. Barack Obama sent this email to supporters today as the deadline for Dinner with Barack approaches.

X There's one thing we already know about the March fundraising results: Senator Clinton and Senator McCain have raised a significant portion of their money from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs.

We've never done that, and we never will.

Instead, we will continue to rely on more than a million individual donors who support this campaign by giving only what they can afford.

Change does not come from the top down - it comes from the bottom up.

So rather than having expensive fundraising dinners to take contributions from Washington lobbyists, I'm hosting a different kind of dinner. If you are chosen from among the donors who give before midnight tonight, I'll get to hear your personal story and ideas about how we can solve America's biggest problems together.

... The pundits are slowly realizing something about our political process that we've known from the beginning: people matter.

In unprecedented numbers, ordinary people are volunteering and donating to this campaign. They're taking true ownership in a way that has never happened before.

When we started this campaign over a year ago, the pundits and the political insiders didn't think it was possible to mobilize ordinary people to reject conventional thinking and fight for real change.

We have a chance to prove them wrong.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Videos and Photos from Road to Change (PA) (2008-03-31 15:18)

Barack Obama discusses economic policy in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, this morning.

[EMBED]

A massive crowd of 22,000 gathered at the Obama rally yesterday on the grounds of Penn State University. Young people could be the key to winning Pennsylvania.

[EMBED]



Barack discusses energy policy at a biofuel station in Manheim, PA.

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[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

2.4 April

Road to Change in Pennsylvania (2008-04-01 12:26)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama speaks during a town hall meeting in Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania today. About

2000 people showed up for the event.

[EMBED]

NBC's Ann Curry interviewed Barack during his Road for Change bus tour.

[EMBED]

Barack speaks to students and other supporters at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania last night.

X

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Michelle Obama in Pittsburgh (2008-04-01 22:01)

Michelle Obama in Pittsburgh, PA

Join Michelle Obama for a special Stand for Change Rally in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, April 2nd. The event will be free and open to the public.

Stand for Change Rally with Michelle Obama

Skibo Gymnasium

Carnegie Mellon University

Tech and Frew Streets

Pittsburgh, PA

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Doors open: 1:00 p.m.

Program begins: 2:15 p.m.

Public entrance: Skibo Gymnasium Event Entrance

This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged. Admission is first-come, first-served.

For security reasons, do not bring bags. Please limit personal items. No signs or banners permitted.

– Barack Obama picked up an extra delegate today from Mississippi extending his lead to 1419-1250.



[EMBED]

Video from Barack's town hall meeting in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal endorses Barack Obama (2008-04-02 11:38)

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal Endorses Obama

by Christopher Hass,

Wednesday, April 02, 2008 at 10:15 AM

Wyoming Governor and superdelegate Dave Freudenthal endorsed Barack Obama today — the 11th superdelegate endorsement that Barack has received since March 4th.

CHICAGO, IL — Wyoming Governor and Democratic superdelegate Dave Freudenthal today endorsed Barack Obama, citing his history of putting partisanship aside to bring people together across party lines and focus on common-sense solutions.

"The negativity, partisanship and lack of purpose that characterize our national debate and government are crippling this country," Governor Freudenthal said. "While no one individual can effect this change alone, the change must begin with someone. Senator Obama is the Democratic candidate with the openness, honesty and skill to end this vicious cycle of business as usual."

Freudenthal was elected Governor in 2002 and reelected in 2006. As a popular Democrat in one of the most traditionally Republican states in the country, Freudenthal knows how essential it is for Democrats to be able to articulate a vision that appeals to voters across the ideological spectrum, and to demonstrate a willingness to listen to people on all sides of the debate.

"Governor Freudenthal has shown the pundits and the talking heads that there isn't anyplace in this country where Democrats can't win if we bring people together and focus on the issues that matter to them," Senator Obama said. "I look forward to working with Dave to deliver the kind of change that folks in the West are looking for: making health care affordable, providing a world-class education for every child, and investing in a clean energy future to create jobs, protect the environment, and wean this country off of foreign oil."

Senator Obama won the Wyoming caucuses on March 8 with 61 percent of the vote.

MSNBC News reports that Governor Freudenthal is the 11th superdelegate to endorse Obama since March 4; during the same time period Senator Clinton has picked up one superdelegate endorsement.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-04-02 20:03:00)

Excellent choice, Governor Freudenthal.

Here are my comments: As I travel from city to city in the US, I am confronted, yet touched, with the deep despair etched on people's faces I observe in stores, on sidewalks, in businesses. When I listen to the stories people share with me, I realize we have come to a point unprecedented in the 6 decades of my own life. Those older than I am tell me that the picture I am now seeing was all too familiar during WWII and in the Great Depression era.

Asian expatriates who have settled here in the last 15 years tell me that they caution their friends and family members to avoid coming to the States. There is increasing violent crime in our cities Domestic

violence which is often a reflection of economic and political displacement is becoming epidemic. Families more often have no healthcare. An illness can mean loss of one's home and overwhelming stress for families. Preventative care is now for the wealthy and the poor must wait until the severity of an illness sends them in crisis to an overwhelmed emergency room. Costs for basic services to homes and apartments are increasing. Gas prices continue to edge up often beyond the comfortable reach of those commuting to two jobs in their effort to pay their bills and feed their families. Children are manifesting the stress felt by their families and besieged school teachers are noting the phenomenon: the outcome of a society gone astray through the myopic, ill-conceived political and economic domestic and international policy. The United States is suffering from non-benign neglect by those who are sitting in Washington DC. The funds that should be directed in stimulating a tired, stressed society is being spent on tribal wars and post modern colonialism abroad. The middle class is becoming an endangered species and democracy, natively depending on a strong middle class, is also on the endangered list. The 'free press' which is also a correlate of democracy isn't free and impartial but encumbered with the dictates of corporate interests.

The mortgage debacle is the result of more myopia and it is debilitating not only people unable to afford their homes but it is destabilizing states and municipalities throughout our nation. America has caught one of the worst maladies since the Depression and the question that emerges is: who can catch us in this precipitous fall?

The next president, if he confronts the present reality, will need every bit of courage and wisdom to help a troubled nation transcend the errors and tragedy of the past 7 years.

This poor, tired world is speaking volumes if we could only listen.

Lifetimes are all too brief and as the saying goes, "too soon old, too late wise". We are such fragile beings on this earth and our lives so vulnerable to the capriciousness of our individual fate. We believe we have dominion over the earth and yet, the earth prevails as each of us breathes out our inevitably last breaths. Human pomp and arrogance observed on the stage of our lives disappear like ocean waves over the sandcastles on a wind-swept beach. Our presence on earth becomes like footprints in the sand, eventually forgotten or covered up by time itself.

Yet, I hold great hope for daybreak and light on the horizon of years to follow this era. For our young, I hope for a leader of rare integrity and wisdom who is able to transcend the delusion that emanates from power. A leader who pores out his soul in a book and inspires a philosophic renaissance in our young. Such a leader would be wise enough to maintain the separation of church and state that our forefathers placed within the architecture of our Constitution: the preservation of civil liberties, tolerance for diversity, creating equal respect for all religions without bias for one. Such a leader has walked in the shoes of the common man or woman and is not alienated from himself or herself but rather sees the whole of mankind the tapestry from which he or she is intimately part of.

They say "it is always the darkest before the dawn" and I look to the horizon for light and for a day when those with power become the humble servants of their better selves.
It is time for Barack Obama to lead. Just one light can dispel the darkness and may Barack be that light.
D. Lopez

Penn. Union endorses Barack Obama (2008-04-02 14:38)

The Philadelphia-based local of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees endorsed Barack Obama today along with former Montana senator, John Melcher, a superdelegate.
The 16,000 member union is a member of the AFSCME labor organization, the national branch of which has endorsed Hillary Clinton. AFSCME does not forbid its local affiliates from making independent endorsements.
Recently, the Obama and Clinton camps have sparred over whether Clinton had supported the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Obama does not support free trade agreements that do not include labor and environmental standards. He has also opposed tax breaks for corporations that outsource.
The Illinois senator does support free trade agreements with the right labor and environmental protections and opposes outsourcing tax breaks and not outsourcing itself. Obama has also been an advocate for immigration reform that would allow more immigration to reunite families, and also allow visas for those who bring in needed skills and expertise.
[EMBED]
Barack speaks at the AFL-CIO convention in Philadelphia this morning.
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Hardball College Tour (2008-04-02 19:40)

Check out Barack Obama with Chris Matthews today on MSNBC's "Hardball College Tour" at West Chester College in West Chester, Pennsylvania.
[EMBED]

Barack Obama in Montana
Apr 5 Rally with Barack Obama

in Missoula, MT



[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-04-02 19:40)

Check out Barack Obama with Chris Matthews today on MSNBC’s ”Hardball College Tour” at West Chester College in West Chester, Pennsylvania.
[EMBED]

(2008-04-02 19:40)

Check out Barack Obama with Chris Matthews on MSNBC’s ”Hardball College Tour” at West Chester College in West Chester, Pennsylvania

More than \$40 million raised in March (2008-04-03 07:57)

The Obama campaign continues to raise staggering amounts of money most from ordinary contributors rather than the usual deep pocket types.
In March, the campaign raised more than a million dollars a day to garner in over \$40 million for the month. About 442,000 people contributed at an average contribution of about \$90 per person.
Here is the press release from campaign manager David Plouffe.

Senator Obama has always said that this campaign would rise or fall on the willingness of the American people to become partners in an effort to change our politics and start a new chapter in our history. Today we’re seeing the American people’s extraordinary desire to change Washington, as tens of thousands of new contributors joined the more than a million Americans who have already taken ownership of this campaign for change. Many of our contributors are volunteering for the campaign, making our campaign the largest grassroots army in recent political history.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama in Pittsburgh (2008-04-03 11:05)

Michelle Obama and Teresa Heinz, wife of Sen. John Kerry, at Carnegie Mellon University tell the crowd why they should support Sen. Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Barack answers an education question from the audience at an appearance in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

[EMBED]



[EMBED]



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



"For Decades": New Obama TV Ad (2008-04-03 19:58)

From barackobama.com:

New Pennsylvania TV Ad: "For Decades"

by Caitlin Harvey

Thursday, April 03, 2008 at 06:39 PM

Today, our campaign began airing a new TV ad in Pennsylvania titled "For Decades." In the ad, Barack reminds voters that politicians have been talking about protecting jobs for decades while allowing Washington lobbyists to block change.

Barack is the only candidate who doesn't take money from federal lobbyists and special interest PACs. As President, he will take on the special interests to fix our trade laws, end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and give them to companies that create jobs here in America.

Check out the ad here:



In Oregon, 26 elected officials announced their support of Sen. Barack Obama today.

Obama's legislative supporters include Senate President Pro Tempore Margaret Carter (Portland), Sen. Alan Bates (Ashland), Sen. Avel Gordly (Portland), Sen. Floyd Prozanski (South Lane and North Douglas Counties), Sen. Ben Westlund (Tumalo), Speaker of the House Jeff Merkley (Portland), Speaker Pro Tempore Diane Rosenbaum (Portland), Rep. Jeff Barker (Aloha), Rep. Phil Barnhart (Central Lane and Linn Counties), Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (Washington County), Rep. Peter Buckley (Ashland), Rep. Ben Cannon (Portland), Rep. Brian Clem (Salem), Rep. Chris Edwards (West Eugene), Rep. Dave Edwards (Hillsboro), Rep. Larry Galizio (Tigard), Rep. Paul Holvey (Eugene), Rep. Betty Komp (Woodburn), Rep. Tina Kotek (North Portland), Rep. Mary Nolan (Portland), Rep. Tobias Read (Beaverton), Rep. Mike Schaufler (Happy Valley), Rep. Chip Shields (Portland), and Rep. Brad Witt (Clatskanie).

Obama Appearances

Apr 4 Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

in Fort Wayne, IN

Apr 5 Rally with Barack Obama

in Missoula, MT

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Barack's Speech on 40th Anniversary of MLK Assassination (2008-04-04 09:29)

Barack Obama gave a speech today in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. Here is the text of the speech as prepared for delivery.

Today represents a tragic anniversary for our country. Through his faith, courage, and wisdom, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. moved an entire nation. He preached the gospel of brotherhood; of equality and justice. That's the cause for which he lived – and for which he died forty years ago today. And so before we begin, I ask you to join me in a moment of silence in memory of this extraordinary American.

There's been a lot of discussion this week about how Dr. King's life and legacy speak to us today. It's taking place in our schools and churches, on television and around the dinner table. And I suspect that much of what folks are talking about centers on issues of racial justice – on the Montgomery bus boycott and the March on Washington, on the freedom rides and the stand at Selma.

And that's as it should be – because those were times when ordinary men and women, straight-backed and clear-eyed, challenged what they knew was wrong and helped perfect our union. And they did so in large part because Dr. King pointed the way.

But I also think it's worth reflecting on what Dr. King was doing in Memphis, when he stepped onto that motel balcony on his way out for dinner.

And what he was doing was standing up for struggling sanitation workers. For years, these workers had served their city without complaint, picking up other people's trash for little pay and even less respect. Passers-by would call them "walking buzzards," and in the segregated South, most were forced to use separate drinking fountains and bathrooms.

But in 1968, these workers decided they'd had enough, and over 1,000 went on strike. Their demands were modest – better wages, better benefits, and recognition of their union. But the opposition was fierce. Their vigils were met with handcuffs. Their protests turned back with mace. And at the end of one march, a 16-year old boy lay dead.

This is the struggle that brought Dr. King to Memphis. It was a struggle for economic justice, for the opportunity that should be available to people of all races and all walks of life. Because Dr. King understood that the struggle for economic justice and the struggle for racial justice were really one – that each was part of a larger struggle "for freedom, for dignity, and for humanity." So long as Americans were trapped in poverty, so long as they were being denied the wages, benefits, and fair treatment they deserved – so long as opportunity was being opened to some but not all – the dream that he spoke of would remain out of reach.

And on the eve of his death, Dr. King gave a sermon in Memphis about what the movement there meant to him and to America. And in tones that would prove eerily prophetic, Dr. King said that despite the threats he'd received, he didn't fear any man, because he had been there when Birmingham aroused the conscience of this nation. And he'd been there to see the students stand up for freedom by sitting in at lunch counters. And he'd been there in Memphis when it was dark enough to see the stars, to see the community coming together around a common purpose. So Dr. King had been to the mountaintop. He had seen the Promised Land. And while he knew somewhere deep in his bones that he would not get there with us, he knew that we would get there.

He knew it because he had seen that Americans have "the capacity," as he said that night, "to project the 'I' into the 'thou.'" To recognize that no matter what the color of our skin, no matter what faith we practice, no matter how much money we have – no matter whether we are sanitation workers or United States Senators – we all have a stake in one another, we are our brother's keeper, we are our sister's

keeper, and "either we go up together, or we go down together."

And when he was killed the following day, it left a wound on the soul of our nation that has yet to fully heal. And in few places was the pain more pronounced than in Indianapolis, where Robert Kennedy happened to be campaigning. And it fell to him to inform a crowded park that Dr. King had been killed. And as the shock turned toward anger, Kennedy reminded them of Dr. King's compassion, and his love. And on a night when cities across the nation were alight with violence, all was quiet in Indianapolis.

In the dark days after Dr. King's death, Coretta Scott King pointed out the stars. She took up her husband's cause and led a march in Memphis. But while those sanitation workers eventually got their union contract, the struggle for economic justice remains an unfinished part of the King legacy. Because the dream is still out of reach for too many Americans. Just this morning, it was announced that more Americans are unemployed now than at any time in years. And all across this country, families are facing rising costs, stagnant wages, and the terrible burden of losing a home.

Part of the problem is that for a long time, we've had a politics that's been too small for the scale of the challenges we face. This is something I spoke about a few weeks ago in a speech I gave in Philadelphia. And what I said was that instead of having a politics that lives up to Dr. King's call for unity, we've had a politics that's used race to drive us apart, when all this does is feed the forces of division and distraction, and stop us from solving our problems.

That is why the great need of this hour is much the same as it was when Dr. King delivered his sermon in Memphis. We have to recognize that while we each have a different past, we all share the same hopes for the future – that we'll be able to find a job that pays a decent wage, that there will be affordable health care when we get sick, that we'll be able to send our kids to college, and that after a lifetime of hard work, we'll be able to retire with security. They're common hopes, modest dreams. And they're at the heart of the struggle for freedom, dignity, and humanity that Dr. King began, and that it is our task to complete. You know, Dr. King once said that the arc of the moral universe is long, but that it bends toward justice. But what he also knew was that it doesn't bend on its own. It bends because each of us puts our hands on that arc and bends it in the direction of justice.

So on this day – of all days – let's each do our part to bend that arc.

Let's bend that arc toward justice.

Let's bend that arc toward opportunity.

Let's bend that arc toward prosperity for all.

And if we can do that and march together – as one nation, and one people – then we won't just be keeping faith with what Dr. King lived and died for, we'll be making real the words of Amos that he invoked so often, and "let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



mjbrown (2008-04-04 16:10:00)

Hi Paul. Thanks for maintaining a great Obama blog. I wanted to share with you a film I made with friends in Rochester, NY about why - when faced with the choice between Obama and Clinton, we choose Obama.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57RwI118gtw>

mjbrown (2008-04-04 16:11:00)

Hi Paul, Thanks for maintaining a great Blog. I wanted to share with you a movie that my friends and I made in Rochester, NY. It's a simple, sincere look at why ordinary voters support Obama instead of Hillary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57RwI118gtw>

Michelle Obama: Yes They Can (2008-04-05 06:57)

Michelle Obama sent out this email yesterday on the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

Paul – Today is the 40th anniversary of the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and I want to share a video that reveals how far we've come and how much this campaign owes to Dr. King's legacy. Students at a high school in the Bronx, who had no real interest in their government, have found new hope. They were surprised by their own excitement and engagement, but to me, they embody so many reasons why Barack and I decided to get into this campaign.

It's truly moving to see young people inspired by a political leader – someone who gives them hope and reminds them that they can be anything they want to be if they work hard.

Watch what these kids have to say about politics and race in this country:



<http://my.barackobama.com/yestheycan>

Much has changed in this country since Dr. King's death, and thanks to his life and work we have taken critical strides towards racial equality.

The simple fact that Barack is running a competitive campaign for President is a direct result of Dr. King's legacy – and this movement for change would be impossible without the support of people of all races, ages, and backgrounds.

I remember back in December of 2006, a group of us were discussing the possibility of Barack running for President. And as you might have read, I was hesitant about the idea.

But then Barack started talking about why he really wanted to do this – to bring people together and to change the tone of the way we talk to each other in this country. He talked about the need for people to be inspired by their leaders, and the importance of leadership to chart a different course. He talked about Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy, and their passion to challenge a new generation and provide them with role models.

Barack promised that as a candidate and as President he would do everything he could to bring new people to the table. He shared his desire to reach out to our neglected inner cities, to strive to be a role model for young people, and to connect with people who are not involved in politics – those who feel their voices haven't been heard, those who have been left behind, and those who have been turned off by all the petty bickering in recent years.

We can change that, by standing on the shoulders of folks like Dr. King who came before us.

Watching these students who are excited about their own role in politics for the first time, and watching Barack as he strives to live up to the challenges Dr. King made possible, I am truly touched. I hope you'll watch this video and share that feeling with your friends and family:

<http://my.barackobama.com/yestheycan>

Thank you,

Michelle Obama



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Call Indiana before Registration Deadline (2008-04-05 12:45)

There's a strong push by the campaign now to compete in Indiana. Indications on the ground show a tough battle in this state.

Indiana votes on the same day as North Carolina, the latter is the largest state following Pennsylvania, and the combined total delegates available exceeds that of Pennsylvania.

Campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this appeal asking supporters to help register voters in Indiana before the deadline on April 7.

Dear Paul,

✖ Right now, you can help build a base of support for Barack in Indiana and bring more voices into the political process.

To participate in Indiana's primary, voters must be registered by this Monday, April 7th.

Tens of thousands of Obama supporters may not be registered yet, and we need to act quickly to reach out to as many of them as possible.

Each call you make could be another vote for Barack in an area where we need your help the most.

Use our online phonebanking tool, and start calling Indiana supporters now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/call>

Registering voters is more than just an important part of our campaign strategy – it's what our movement is all about.

From the beginning, Barack has set out to bring more people and more voices into the political process. And if we can reach more people in Indiana, we can make a lasting impact and win victories for the Democratic Party up and down the ballot in November.

All across the country, volunteers will be making calls into Indiana to tell potential supporters about the deadline and encourage them to register.

No previous experience is necessary. All you need is a hunger for change and a willingness to turn your enthusiasm into action.

Our team has put together a list of the most important calls you can make into Indiana right now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/call>

Here's how it works:

1. Log into My.BarackObama.com and get a list of 20 names that only you will receive. (If you don't have a My.BarackObama account, creating one is fast and easy.)
2. Click on a name, and you'll be led through a simple script, question by question.
3. Start making calls.

Personal contact is the best way to grow this movement, and you can make these connections right from your own home.

It's easy – start by making five calls, and I know you'll want to make five more:

<http://my.barackobama.com/call>

Thank you for making this happen,

David

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Bush Economy (2008-04-06 13:05)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama talks about the Bush economy at the Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner in Montana.

While I believe the most important issue in the general election will still be the Iraq War and the "war on terrorism," the economy will obviously be very important. Decades of debt spending by governments, businesses and consumers is catching up with the country.

Bill Clinton forestalled this a bit but only at the federal level. Republicans continued to be big spenders despite their rhetoric, only borrowing rather than raising money through taxes. Democrats triangulated and borrowed the "no new taxes" slogan of the Republicans but also without cutting back on spending. So state and local governments continued to pile up debt.

Also, businesses used debt even more during the Clinton administration as best illustrated by the dotcom boom and bust. Financing in most cases is just a fancy business term for borrowing.

The real estate boom of the Bush years again is just more debt as most people had to borrow to purchase a home, and many got well over their heads in liability.

Depending on consumerism to drive the economy has made the country much more dependent on foreign oil. The U.S. dollar is pegged on oil sales and as the "oil peak," the point at which world oil supplies start declining, approaches, there will be downward pressure on the dollar's value. Nations are making major steps to reduce dependency on oil in the future and turning toward green technology.

Those countries that do not make an adequate switch to green energy will end up paying big bucks for high-priced petroleum.

The tough part about the current economic crisis is that unlike other recessions (or even depression?) when prices go down, inflation is rising today as the economy shrinks. Again that's the consumerism-driven economy at work as manufactured goods prices fluctuate with oil prices. Oil is needed to transport these goods and in many cases to make them as with plastics, for example. And there is a cycle now that as oil prices go up, the world's nations are making more efforts toward alternative power and fuel sources. This drives down the dollar as there is less demand for the greenback for use in buying petroleum. And the falling dollar encourages oil producers to cut supply and raise oil prices more to compensate for the falling dollar.

Obama's policy of moving swiftly toward green energy and reducing dependency on foreign oil, and moving away from excessive consumerism are the right steps to take. Also we need someone realistic and non-triangulating to deal realistically with taxes and wean us off the debt-driven economy model.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-04-06 19:06:00)

http://www.salon.com/news/primary_sources/2007/10/11/clinton/index.html

Clinton Foundation Donors

1 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WA \$12,429,835

2 Alphawood Foundation \$4,250,000

3 Wasserman Foundation \$3,350,000

4 Walton Family Foundation \$2,000,000
5 The Alix Foundation \$1,075,000
6 Peninsula Community Foundation \$1,002,500
7 Sidney E. Frank Foundation, NY \$1,000,000
7 The Annenberg Foundation \$1,000,000
7 Walmart Foundation \$1,000,000
10 Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust \$950,000
11 Bernard & Irene Schwartz Foundation \$700,000
12 The Rockefeller Foundation \$600,000
13 Monterey Fund, Inc. \$517,800
14 Citi Foundation \$500,000
14 Marin County Foundation \$500,000
16 The New York Community Trust \$407,335
17 Anheuser-Busch Foundation \$400,000
18 Lewis B. & Dorothy Cullman Foundation \$265,000
19 Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation \$250,000
19 Ford Motor Company Fund, MI \$250,000
19 NoVo Foundation \$250,000
19 The Bank of America Charitable Foundation \$250,000
19 The Jon S. Corzine Foundation \$250,000
19 The Winnick Family Foundation \$250,000
25 Cumming Foundation \$200,000
25 The Engelberg Foundation, FL \$200,000
25 The Wedge Foundation \$200,000
28 The Berry Gordy Family Foundation \$150,000
28 Trinity Foundation \$150,000
30 Jonathan M. Tisch Foundation \$114,000
31 AT &T Foundation \$100,000
31 Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation \$100,000
31 Katz Foundation \$100,000
31 Regions Foundation \$100,000
31 The Dyson Foundation \$100,000
31 The Philip D. and Tammy S. Murphy Foundation \$100,000
31 Walter H. and Phyllis J. Shorenstein Foundation \$100,000
38 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation \$65,579
39 Altman/Kazickas Foundation \$50,000
39 Craig and Kathryn Hall Foundation \$50,000
39 Harman Family Foundation \$50,000
39 The David S. and Sylvia Steiner Charitable Trust \$50,000
39 Wood-Rill Foundation \$50,000
44 Waitt Family Foundation \$35,932
45 Riggs Benevolent Fund \$33,500
46 The William M. & A. Cafaro Family Foundation \$28,000
47 May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation \$25,000
47 Sandler Capital Management Charitable Foundation \$25,000
49 Lockheed Martin Corporation Foundation \$20,000
49 The Seattle Foundation \$20,000
51 The Tommy E. Short Charitable Foundation \$17,500
52 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation \$15,000
52 Willametta K. Day Foundation \$15,000

54 The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation \$14,000
 55 Hassenfeld Foundation \$10,000
 55 John M. O'Quinn Foundation \$10,000
 55 The Floyd & Delores Jones Foundation \$10,000
 55 The Semel Charitable Foundation \$10,000
 59 Lone Pine Foundation, Inc. \$9,100
 60 Boston Foundation \$5,000
 60 JEHT Foundation \$5,000
 60 The Gill Foundation \$5,000
 60 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation \$5,000
 60 The Heyday Foundation \$5,000
 65 Alan B. Slifka Foundation \$2,750
 66 Community Foundation of Greater Memphis \$2,200
 67 Sandel Family Foundation \$1,000
 67 The Community Foundation for the National Capital \$1,000
 69 Arkansas Community Foundation, Inc. \$700
 70 Moss Foundation \$500
 71 The Bert & Sandra Wasserman Foundation \$180
 TOTAL \$35,808,411

 Speaking fees

A &E Television \$125,000
 Adam Smith Conferences \$125,000
 Ahmet San Productions bh of TUSIAD \$250,000
 America Israel Chamber of Commerce \$125,000
 American Academy of Achievement (2 events) \$300,000
 American Assn of Nurse Anesthetists \$150,000
 American Chamber of Commerce in Spain \$250,000
 American Friends of the Rabin Medical Center \$125,000
 America's Health Insurance Plans \$150,000
 AMR Research \$150,000
 Antwerp Diamond High Council \$200,000
 Ardee's Festival \$150,000
 Aripaeva Kirjastus \$150,000
 Asian American Hotel Owners Association \$125,000
 Association of Southern California Defense Counsel \$125,000
 Australian Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification of China \$300,000
 Australian Information Industry Association \$250,000
 Aventis \$125,000
 Aventura-Turnberry Jewish Center \$150,000
 Banco de Mexico \$150,000
 Baugur Group \$250,000
 Beth El Synagogue \$125,000
 Biotechnology industry Organization \$150,000
 Blex S.L. \$350,000
 BMW Group on New Zealand \$137,500
 Borsen Executive Club \$150,000
 British Broadcasting Coporation \$75,000
 Canadian Society for Yad Vashem \$125,000
 Caribbean Council for Global Studies \$125,000

Carnegie Abbey Club \$150,000
 Celebriti Forum II (2 events) \$200,000
 CiscoSystems (2 events) \$300,000
 Citigroup (3 events) \$550,000
 CLSA Ltd. (4 events) \$700,000
 Colonial Life Ins Co. \$200,000
 Comitato per il Congresso Nazionale della Pubblicita \$350,000
 Compuware Corporation \$125,000
 Congregation Beth-El Zedeck \$150,000
 Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers \$125,000
 Credit Suisse First Boston \$125,000
 Decision Makers InterAction \$150,000
 Dentsu Inc on behalf of Aichi Gakuin \$250,000
 Deutsche Bank (2 events) \$300,000
 Diario de Noticias \$250,000
 Dinamo Norge \$150,000
 dnmStrategies (2 events) \$400,000
 EchoStar Satellite Corporation \$100,000
 Economic Club of Southwest Michigan \$125,000
 Educatinal Institute of AHLA \$125,000
 El Paso Holocaust Museum \$125,000
 EPC International on behalf of Workshop Ischgl-Club of the Alps \$245,000
 European Travel Commission \$125,000
 Fatasma \$125,000
 Financial Innovations, Inc. \$100,000
 Fool Proof \$125,000
 Fortune Magazine Forum (2 events) \$700,000
 Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center \$150,000
 Fundacao Armando Alvares Penteado \$250,000
 Fundacion Rafael Del Pino \$250,000
 Future Generation Foundation \$175,000
 Galeries Lafayette-Monoprix \$250,000
 GBD Group \$250,000
 General Motors \$200,000
 Global Artists (4 events) \$580,000
 Global Business Enterprises \$300,000
 Global Strategic Ventures \$150,000
 Gold Service International (4 events) \$800,000
 Golden Tree Asset Management \$150,000
 Goldman Sachs (4 events) \$650,000
 Greater Washington Society of Association Executives (2 events) \$250,000
 Greenwood House \$125,000
 Griwa Consulting GMBH \$250,000
 Group Vivendi Universal \$150,000
 Gruner & Jahr Publishing USA on behalf of American Jewish Committee \$125,000
 Hearst Magazines \$125,000
 Hebrew Home and Hospital Inc \$125,000
 HMS Italia \$125,000
 Hon Frank McKenna's Business Networking Event (2 events) \$200,000
 HSM America (2 events) \$300,000

Hubert Burda Media GmbH \$300,000
 Hunter College Foundation \$35,000
 Huron Consulting Services \$150,000
 IBM \$200,000
 IFE Institut Fuer Eventmanagement GmbH \$300,000
 Independent News and Media \$150,000
 infoUSA, Inc \$200,000
 Institute for International Sports \$150,000
 International Centre for Business Info \$125,000
 International Council of Shopping Centers \$150,000
 International Dairy-deli Bakery \$150,000
 International Health Racquet \$150,000
 International Profit Associates \$125,000
 J.T. Campbell & Co. \$150,000
 Jewish Federation Council of LA \$125,000
 Jewish Federation of Chicago (2 events) \$300,000
 Jewish National Fund (4 events) \$550,000
 Jiannanchun Group Co \$250,000
 Jim Pattison Group \$150,000
 KMD \$250,000
 Kushner Companies \$125,000
 Lancaster Chamber of Commerce \$150,000
 Latin American Institute of Education Communicaton \$300,000
 Leading Minds (3 events) \$375,000
 Lehman Bros. \$150,000
 LIMRA International \$150,000
 Listin Diario \$250,000
 London Drugs \$125,000
 London School of Economics and Political Science \$28,100
 Long Island Association Inc \$125,000
 Macklowe Properties on behalf of State of Israel Bonds Development Corp. \$250,000
 Markson Sparks! (10 events) \$1,675,000
 Maruri Communications Group \$200,000
 Mass Torts Made Perfect \$150,000
 McCreath Communications (2 events) \$275,000
 MDM Investments Ltd \$125,000
 Media Control GmbH (2 events) \$350,000
 MiKI Corporation (3 events) \$450,000
 Mito City Political Research Group \$400,000
 Morgan Firestone Foundation \$125,000
 Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Co. \$125,000
 Mortgage Banker Assn \$150,000
 MPSF (3 events) \$300,000
 National Apartment Association \$150,000
 National Assn of Realtors \$125,000
 National Mlti-Housing Council \$150,000
 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \$100,000
 Ness Technologies \$150,000
 Nordstrom International Aps on behalf of World Celebrity Golf \$300,000
 Old York Road Temple Beth Am \$125,000

One Family \$125,000
 Oracle Corporation \$125,000
 ORT Montreal \$125,000
 Paris Golf and Country Club \$150,000
 PeopleSoft Inc \$125,000
 Personal Dynamics on behalf of Provente.com \$125,000
 Pinpoint Knowledge Management, The Portables \$125,000
 Protocol Resource and Operation Services \$200,000
 Puls Biznesu, Bonnier Business \$183,333
 Radio and Records \$125,000
 RDM Group \$125,000
 Renaissance Calgary \$125,000
 Salem State College Foundation \$125,000
 Savage/Rothenberg Productions (4 events) \$550,000
 Scherer Consulting Group and Jorg Lohr Training \$150,000
 Seeliger Y Conde \$200,000
 Seoul Broadcasting \$250,000
 Serono International \$150,000
 SFX Sports Group on behalf of Magna International \$125,000
 St. James Place \$175,000
 Standard Bank of America \$150,000
 Stree-Global Investments in Women \$125,000
 Success Events International (2 events) \$250,000
 Success Resources Pte Ltd. \$250,000
 Temple Beth Avodah \$125,000
 The Abraham Fund \$125,000
 The American University in Dubai \$150,000
 The Dabbagh Group (2 events) \$600,000
 The German Union of Small and Medium-Sized Companies \$100,000
 The McCarthy Group \$200,000
 The Power Within (8 events) \$1,870,000
 The Star Forum \$125,000
 The Sunday Times Hay Festival \$150,000
 The Talar Forum \$183,333
 The Varsavsky Foundation \$175,000
 tinePublic Inc (5 events) \$650,000
 TJ Martell Foundation \$75,000
 Toronto Hadassah-WIZO \$125,000
 Tufts University \$125,000
 United Israel Appeal of Geneva \$150,000
 University of California, Davis \$100,000
 University of Judaism \$125,000
 Urban Land Institute \$125,000
 Valor Economico S.A. \$150,000
 Value Grupo Financiero \$175,000
 Verinvest S.C. on behalf of Mexico Business Summit \$150,000
 VNU Business Media on behalf of Online Learning 2001 Conf. \$125,000
 Warburg Pincus \$125,000
 Wirtsfafats Blatt \$183,333
 WIZO \$125,000

World Celebrity Events (5 events) \$1,340,000
World Leader's Forum \$150,000
Yorkshire International Business Convention \$200,000
Young President's Organization \$150,000
YPO Windy City Chapter \$100,000
TOTAL \$41,085,599

Lisa (2008-04-08 03:13:00)

Barack is not the first black candidate to run for president. He will certainly not be the last. Blacks are changing the face of Sport, Music, Crime and now Politics. So is the face of America changing to the rest of the world. Its change I can believe in because its all too real. As real as a craving for black coffee in the morning. America is ready for this black change in the white house. Historically, pre-election goals are very different to the actual achievements of a candidate once he/she has assumed office. A leader leads a nation consciously, by the good faith of its people. Charismatic leaders with the unspoken consent of their people.

A salesman will get you to say yes and sell you a product which you may unconsciously reject. The perception of America is so different today than it was in the 70's, 90's or even 2004. As fragmented will also be this collective unconscious of the body politic once a leader is elected to congress. It will define who an American is, what the America of the future will be. As a result world demographics will change proactively to this result. More milk in your coffee America?

Michelle Obama in North Carolina (2008-04-06 19:47)

Michelle Obama Appearances in North Carolina

Apr 8 Rally with Michelle Obama

in Winston-Salem, NC

Apr 8 Rally with Michelle Obama

in Raleigh, NC

Supporters in York, Pennsylvania, organize grassroots events including helping out in their communities.





✕

[EMBED]

✕

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Student Rewind: All Across the Map (2008-04-07 11:50)

From barackobama.com :

Student Rewind: All Across the Map

by Alex DeGolia,

Monday, April 07, 2008 at 10:31 AM



Barack in front of a huge crowd at the University of Montana in Missoula

Pennsylvania Students Gear Up for April 22nd Primary

By Luke Messac

With almost 700,000 college students across Pennsylvania, the youth vote will be a key factor in the April 22nd Democratic primary. On over 70 college campuses around the state, SFBO chapters are turning heads and winning new supporters. Mia Prensky, a 21-year-old at Bryn Mawr College, talked to SFBO members as they handed out stickers and information about Senator Obama's position on Iraq. Finding herself in agreement with Obama on the war — a central issue for her in this election — Prensky told the Associated Press that he would have her vote.

Mia is not alone, as students from across the nation see Obama as the candidate most attuned to their hopes and concerns. A recent poll conducted by Gallup and the Chronicle of Higher Education shows that when asked which candidate would do more to help families deal with rising college tuition costs, more Americans between the ages of 18 and 22 chose Obama than Clinton and McCain combined. Barack Obama's attention to young people is one of the reasons why he has won the student vote by overwhelming margins in this year's primaries and caucuses. As Scott Keeter, director of survey research for the Pew Research Center, observes, "I cannot recall another candidate in the past couple of decades that had such consistent support from young people."

Dave Matthews in Bloomington, IN

Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds played an acoustic set in front of a crowd of 13,500 at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN to promote voter registration and support for Senator Obama. To read Dave Matthews' endorsement posted on his website, [click here](#). Asked by Rolling Stone why he is supporting Senator Obama, Matthews responded, "It's a quality he has that seems to elevate the people around him... the most important qualification a candidate can possess is being able to inspire people to want to do things

for their country.” For a more in-depth look at why he is supporting Senator Obama, read the entire Rolling Stone interview [here](#).

In Other News...

Senator Obama enjoyed an enormous crowd at the University of Montana in Missoula on Saturday. Paul Donaldson, who works at the University of Montana in Missoula setting up sound and stage at the Adams Center, says that he’s never seen anything like what happened two days ago. Students began lining up for the event at midnight even though Barack wouldn’t be there until 10 p.m. Donaldson said, “This is history.” To read the entire story in the Great Falls Tribune, [click here](#).

Barack wins a mock Democratic Convention at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA, with 60 percent of the vote. [Read more here](#).

Teens are fired up in Lancaster County, PA.

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Voter Registration gains two Penn. Counties for Dems (2008-04-07 14:42)

Two counties in Pennsylvania have switched from Republican to Democratic majorities after record voter registration drives. Here’s an excerpt from the New York Times story. While it’s still too early to believe that this will benefit Barack Obama’s campaign more than Hillary Clinton’s, we do know that Obama supporters staged a massive voter registration drive in the state.

April 7, 2008, 2:59 pm

2 Philly Counties Flip to Democratic Party

By Katharine Q. Seelye



History is being made in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

The four suburban counties have long been Republican strongholds, with more Republican voters than Democratic ones. The last time there were more Democrats than Republicans seems lost in the mists of time.

But a new day is here. Voter enrollment in both Montgomery and Bucks Counties has flipped from Republican to Democratic.

The registration deadline was March 24, and tens of thousands of new registrations flooded in, from both new voters and party switchers. Elections officials have been counting them since, and posting the changes in drips and drabs.

Today, the new tally in Bucks shows 185,413 enrolled Democrats, compared with 181,941 enrolled Republicans.

In Montgomery County, the new tally shows 245,209 Democrats, compared with 238,208 Republicans.

While both counties have been voting Democratic periodically for more than a decade, the registration figures have not reflected that trend until now.

“We’re pretty excited,” said John Cordisco, chairman of the Bucks County Democratic Party and a candidate for state treasurer. He said that previous registration drives had created momentum for the change but that “disgust” with the Bush administration and excitement over this year’s Democratic presidential primary had accelerated it. He said he thought the last time Bucks was Democratic may have been the 1960s.

The campaigns of Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton undertook intense voter-registration drives in the suburbs, and across the state. Signing up new voters was a particular strategy for Mr. Obama, who has also sought to appeal to independents and Republicans.

Check out scenes from Barack Obama ’s visit to Montana.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack discusses Iraq War testimony on Today Show (2008-04-08 11:11)

Sen. Barack Obama discusses the Iraq War on the Today Show indicating that he would push for answers from General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker during their testimony today.

[EMBED]

Barack was also endorsed today by the Charleston Gazette.

the Charleston Gazette

For the first time since the historic 1960 primary election, the Democratic presidential nomination remains hotly contested as West Virginians prepare to vote. So this state's Democrats and independents may, once again, help decide U.S. history.

For the first time since the historic 1960 primary election, the Democratic presidential nomination remains hotly contested as West Virginians prepare to vote. So this state's Democrats and independents may, once again, help decide U.S. history.

We hope they support the brilliant, inspiring, eloquent frontrunner in the race, Barack Obama.

Sen. Obama is a rare figure in U.S. politics - a deep thinker who rises above partisan sniping and makes statecraft seem noble. He raises hope that, after the disastrous Bush years mercifully come to an end, Americans can again be proud of their national leader. Obama appeals to the innate decency in all groups of people, beyond party lines, without personal grandiosity. He fosters a desire to restore America's finest values of honor and fairness.

In endorsing Obama, Sen. Jay Rockefeller pointed out that the young Illinois lawyer had to work hard - "there was nothing sheltered about his life" - but he rose to national stature. Rockefeller said Obama was far-sighted enough to oppose President Bush's unwise plan to invade Iraq while most others, including rival Hillary Clinton, supported the invasion.

"The indisputable fact is, Barack Obama was right about Iraq when many of us were wrong," the West Virginia senator said. "It was a tough call and the single greatest national security question - and mistake - of our time. ... What matters most in the Oval Office is sound judgment and decisive action. It's about getting it right on crucial national security questions the first time, and every time."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-04-08 11:11)

Sen. Barack Obama discusses the Iraq War on the Today Show indicating that he would demand answers from General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker
[EMBED]

New Obama Video and TV ads (2008-04-08 16:03)

Barack Obama speaks at the CWA Legislative Conference today.
[EMBED]

And some new ads are airing on TV.

Quiet began airing yesterday featuring Barack speaking about Washington's failure to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and his efforts to tell Detroit's automakers that he won't allow them to block higher fuel standards for our cars.

[EMBED]

Maya, which begins today, features Barack's sister, grandmother, and wife discussing the values that Barack will bring to the White House and his commitment to give every child the same opportunities that his own daughters have.

[EMBED]

One Voice begins airing today and highlights Barack's belief that we can unite together as a country to deal with challenges and encourages Americans to take charge of the political process.

[EMBED]

In Mother, which begins today, Barack tells how his mother suffered from a failing health care system as she fought with cancer. He commits to reforming our nation's health care system. Obama's universal health care plan covers all American and will cut costs for the typical family by \$2,500 per year.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama calls for Timetable, Diplomatic Surge (2008-04-08 21:09)

Sen. Barack Obama called on a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq and for a 'diplomatic surge' to include Iran during the testimony of Iraq commander Gen. David Petraeus and US ambassador to Baghdad Ryan Crocker.

"I think that increased pressure in a measured way, in my mind, and this is where we disagree, includes a timetable for withdrawal. Nobody is asking for a precipitous withdrawal, Obama said, also noting the tremendous burden the war is placing on the weak economy.

"I continue to believe that the original decision to go into Iraq was a massive strategic blunder, that the two problems you pointed out, Al-Qaeda in Iraq and increased Iranian influence in the region are a direct result of that original decision. That's not a decision you gentlemen made. I will not lay it at your feet. You are cleaning up the mess afterwards."

X

[EMBED]

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Postal Workers, Portland Tribune endorse Barack Obama (2008-04-09 10:22)

The American Postal Workers Union and the Portland Tribune have endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today.

American Postal Workers Union endorses Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

Wednesday, April 09, 2008 at 09:29 AM

The American Postal Workers Union has endorsed Barack Obama for president. The APWU is the world's largest postal union, representing over 330,000 USPS employees and retirees, as well as nearly 2,000 private-sector mail workers.

From the APWU release...

✖ The National Executive Board of the American Postal Workers Union has voted unanimously to endorse Sen. Barack Obama for president.

"Sen. Obama's message is one of hope and change," said union President William Burrus. "His message is special, and the timing is right."

"We are most impressed by Sen. Obama's commitment to eradicating the undue influence of special interests in the political process," he said. "Our current political system does not allow for the voices of average citizens to be heard over the demands of lobbyists and big-money campaign contributors."

"Sen. Obama has vowed to change that, and his campaign has flourished through the participation of new voters and small contributors," Burrus said. "We believe he will be a president who will strongly represent the interests of working Americans."

"His ability to bring new participants into our nation's democratic process – to get young people involved, and to persuade ordinary citizens that they have a real stake in politics – is an inspiration."

"We are pleased to endorse Sen. Barack Obama for president of the United States, and we will commit our energy and efforts to help him win the White House."

For more on Obama's plan to protect the dignity of America's workers and strengthen our unions, [click here](#).



Obama is best for Democrats

Oregon Democrats can do their part to encourage the nation to move forward by throwing their support to Sen. Barack Obama in the May 20 primary.

The fact that Oregon matters at all in this presidential race is something of a small miracle, considering the lateness of its primary. But since Oregonians have a rare chance this election year to influence whom the Democrats ultimately select to run in November, the state's voters ought to stake their claim on the future and help the nation transcend bitter divisions of the past.

Coming into Oregon and other late-primary states, the Illinois senator is maintaining a small lead in pledged delegates over Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y. Both Obama and Clinton have visited the state (along with former President Clinton) and have ignited levels of excitement not seen during an Oregon primary since the mid-1970s.

The two Democratic candidates have similarities on the issues, and they present an opportunity to break racial and gender barriers for the nation's highest office. But our support for Obama comes down to a belief that the nation is weary of family dynasties in the White House and is in search of new ways to resolve old battles – domestically and abroad...

Obama's campaign already has proven transformative in many ways. He has engaged and motivated younger voters who are willing to put aside the cynicism held by many of their elders and to believe again that government can be a positive force for change. Obama also represents a singular opportunity to unify this nation around the strength of its racial and ethnic diversity.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Three Days to Register in North Carolina (2008-04-09 14:26)

There are just three days left for new voters to register in North Carolina. If you would like to make calls to help in the registration effort click on the button below.



Check out the video of Barack speaking on the economy at the Malvern, Pennsylvania town hall meeting. There was a great voter registration effort in the Keystone State.

[EMBED]

Barack said during the meeting:

The war in Iraq was unwise. It has piled on a mountain of debt that has weakened our economy. And it distracted us from going after al-Qaeda and Afghanistan. This is why I opposed the war in 2002. This is why I intend to bring this war to a close in 2009. That is my goal. When we end the war in Iraq, we will be in a much stronger position to be a leader around the world. We've got to insert diplomacy into our foreign relations.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New TV Ad: 'Billy' (2008-04-09 14:58)

The Obama campaign unveiled a new television ad for Pennsylvania today.

The ad features Sen. Barack Obama talking about a legislator who went on to work for a pharmaceutical company.

The pharmaceutical industry wrote a prescription drug plan provision that prevent Medicare from negotiating with drug companies, and the chairman of the bill's committee left Congress after the legislation passed to take a multi-million dollar job with the pharmaceutical industry.

Barack is the only candidate in the race who doesn't take special interest PAC or lobbyist money, and he's the only candidate who has passed legislation to curb special interest influence in politics.

Check out the ad:

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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More Voices (2008-04-09 21:21)

Barack Obama sent out this email today.

Paul –



There are just three days left before North Carolina's voter registration deadline, and I need your help to reach as many supporters as possible.

Bringing more voices into the political process is what this campaign is all about.

You can make a difference today, right from your home. Use our online phonebanking tool, and start calling North Carolina supporters now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callNC>

Across North Carolina , there are tens of thousands of people who are ready for change – but many are not yet registered to vote. We need to reach out to them, and we need your help.

Our success in this campaign has come from ordinary Americans believing in the power of one voice to bring change. In North Carolina – in these next three days – you can be that voice.

Pick up the phone, make a personal connection, and start making a difference now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callNC>

Our on-line calling system is easy and fun to use. Here’s how it works:

- Once you log in, you’ll get a list of 20 names that only you will receive. (If you don’t have a My.BarackObama account, creating one is fast and easy.)
- Click on a name – you’ll be led through a simple script, question by question.
- Start making calls.

Thank you for getting involved and building this movement,

Barack



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama in South Bend, Indiana (2008-04-10 11:25)

Barack Obama talks in South Bend, Indiana about the Iraq War that will probably end up costing more than \$1 trillion and thousands of lives. The war has not increased the security of the United States, Obama notes. A crowd of 3,500 gathered for the April 9 rally.

[EMBED]



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



JS (2008-04-11 07:34:00)

Pennsylvania is grassroots territory:

<http://PAREps4Obama.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PASeniorsForObama>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PAVetsForObama>

<http://PAVetsForObama.blogspot.com/>

<http://PASeniorsForObama.blogspot.com/>

Video from Pennsylvania, Indiana and North Carolina (2008-04-10 15:49)

Barack Obama discusses the economy in Gary, Indiana.

[EMBED]

On Tuesday, Michelle Obama was in North Carolina registering new voters.

[EMBED]

Mark "Luke Skywalker" Hamill speaks to students at Point Park University in downtown Pittsburgh about why he is supporting Barack Obama. Hamill who opposes the Iraq War said that just as Luke in Star Wars was "the new hope in the fantasy world and Barack is the new hope in the real world."

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



JS (2008-04-11 07:36:00)

Feel free to share these videos directly from YouTube or to link to them.

<http://PAREps4Obama.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PASeniorsForObama>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PAVetsForObama>

<http://PAVetsForObama.blogspot.com/>

<http://PASeniorsForObama.blogspot.com/>

Barack Obama in Lafayette, Indiana (2008-04-11 07:59)

Barack Obama speaks in Lafayette, Indiana, on April 10, 2008 about the struggle for change in the country. He talks about things that "don't possible right now," but are if we act and are unified.

[EMBED]

Barack's message on American Idol last night.

[EMBED]



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama: 'Pass Executive Pay Legislation' (2008-04-11 12:38)

Sen. Barack Obama this morning called for passage of legislation requiring big business to conduct non-binding shareholders votes on executive compensation.

[EMBED]

Here is the text of Sen. Obama's remarks at the press conference as prepared for delivery.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama on Executive Compensation

Indianapolis, Indiana

Press Conference

Friday, April 11, 2008

I'd like to say a few words this morning about the state of our economy. You know, we talk about "issues" in a campaign. But for families across Indiana and the country, the economy is more than a discussion point. That's because the cost of everything from health care, to a tank of gas, to college tuition has shot up while wages have stayed the same. So families are feeling the pinch. On top of that, millions of Americans are also facing foreclosure or seeing the value of their homes decline, and millions more are out of work.

So I wasn't particularly surprised when I read the other day about a poll that shows folks are now more downbeat about their futures than they've been in nearly fifty years.

But we also know that's only half the story – because Wall Street executives have been doing just fine. Some CEOs make more in one day than their workers make in one year. There was a story about this in the paper the other day. They did a study and found that the top 50 CEOs made around \$15.7 million last year – despite the fact that many of their companies have been falling behind.

We all believe in that fundamental, American value that if you do good work, if you're successful, you should be rewarded. But if you're a Wall Street CEO today, it doesn't seem to matter whether you're doing a good job or a bad job for your shareholders and workers: You'll be rewarded either way.

Take the home building company, KB Home. They lost nearly \$1 billion last year. But their CEO walked away with a \$6 million cash bonus, and that's on top of his \$1 million base salary. And just the other week, we learned that when Countrywide Financial was sold a few months ago, its top two executives got a combined \$19 million. Nevermind that Countrywide is as responsible as anyone for the scandalous mortgage crisis we've got today – a crisis that's the source of many of our other economic problems.

This is an outrage. But as I said in a recent speech at the Cooper Union in New York City, this isn't an accident. It's because of decisions made, not just in boardrooms or trading floors, but in Washington. Under Republican and Democratic Administrations, we failed to guard against practices that all too often rewarded financial manipulation instead of productivity and sound business practices. We let the special interests put their thumbs on the economic scales, using their clout to rig the game against everyday Americans.

So what we need to do is restore balance to our economy and put in place rules of the road to make competition fair, and open, and honest. One place we can start is by restoring common sense to executive pay.

That's why last year, I proposed legislation that would give shareholders a say on what CEOs are getting paid, and help ensure that companies are disclosing the rationale for the salary and benefits that CEOs are getting. This isn't just about expressing outrage. It's about changing a system where bad behavior is rewarded – so that we can hold CEOs accountable, and make sure they're acting in a way that's good for their company, good for our economy, and good for America, not just good for themselves.

We've seen what happens when CEOs are paid for doing a job no matter how bad a job they're doing. We can't afford to postpone reform any longer. That's why Washington needs to act immediately to pass this legislation.

Now, I know Senator McCain had some sharp words the other day about what some CEOs are getting paid. And I was glad to hear it. But when he's had the chance to do something about this problem, he's opted for continuing the do-nothing approach of the Bush years. And this seems to be a trend with Senator McCain. Yesterday, he finally proposed some steps to deal with our housing crisis. And I'm glad he's moving in the right direction, but what he's proposing isn't enough to really help struggling families.

So I respect John McCain. He'll be a worthy opponent. But we can't afford another four years of policies that don't make a difference in the lives of ordinary Americans, and that's what John McCain is offering.

We need a President who understands the fundamental truth that's been at the heart of America's economic success – that each American does better when all Americans do better; that the well-being of American business and the American people are aligned. That's the kind of leadership the American people deserve. And that's the kind of leadership I intend to offer as President.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Dork of York (2008-04-11 20:46:00)

Now here is an interesting race we have a form of condensed Bush to which we just need to add waqter and he'll sprout up taking the form of a very old man with a cancerous groth on his neck (that is a tumor right?)thinking that the surge is working. Then we have a man releing on race and all he says is a noun a verb and change. And then we have a woman who doesn't insult the rust belt like Obama and isn't a Bush like McCain and has a solid record of winning swing states so who do you think will have a chance against the republican slander machine? Who do you think will bring about the most change? The answer of course is any one who doesn't accept money from big biusness but in the lack of one it's Clinton.

Obama News Roundup (2008-04-11 19:58)

Here's the new web ad released by the Obama campaign.



Note that the ad includes John McCain!

In this video, Barack speaks about healthcare in Gary, Indiana.

[EMBED]

In Terre Haute, Indiana, Barack responds to the combined attacks by Hillary Clinton and John McCain.

[EMBED]

In this video, Barack discusses the importance of community organizing while volunteers in the Philadelphia campaign office register voters.

[EMBED]

Franktuary, a NY style hot dog restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh, created two meals based on the candidates, the Barackwurst for Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama News Roundup (2008-04-11 19:58)

Here's the new web ad released by the Obama campaign.



Obama in Muncie; Colin Powell (2008-04-12 09:31)

Barack Obama in Muncie, Indiana, talks about "bitterness" among people over the current political situation. He calls for a government "that is actually paying attention" instead of not listening to the voice of the people. [EMBED]

On Good Morning America (Apr. 10), Gen. Colin Powell praises but falls short of endorsing Barack Obama. He says he has not chosen a candidate to support yet. [EMBED]

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-04-12 14:59)

From barackobama.com :

Women For Obama Rally with Caroline Kennedy

by Amanda Scott

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 11:13 AM

This morning, over 1,000 women of all ages gathered together for a Women For Obama rally in Glenside, Pennsylvania before hitting the streets to canvass for Barack.



The attendees were excited to hear Caroline Kennedy speak about why she is voting for Barack. Caroline said:

I keep being told that women are going to decide this election, and how great is that? But, we know that women decide all elections. And Barack Obama is the leader for us, and this time. Aren't we lucky that somebody has come along that can take this moment, and our history, to the place it needs to go? It is rare to find a leader who can inspire us and make us believe that together we really can do great things. Inspiration is so important –it can transform this country. When each of us takes an action that is courageous it gives strength to those around us to face the next challenge and those acts can change history. And that is the chance that we have with Barack Obama. And it is our responsibility to put everything aside to help him fight for all of us.

We need a president who will fight for civil rights, education, and hold himself to the highest ethical standards. It's up to each of us to create a government that is close to our heart's desire, because if we don't do it, somebody else will. It is up to us to take this moment back – to take this country back – to create a government that our hearts desire. It's coming down to Pennsylvania and you are going to make a difference. Let's make history in Pennsylvania.

Maria from Upper Dublin was excited to see Caroline Kennedy this morning. Her support for Barack convinced her husband to change his lifelong Republican status and register as a Democrat to vote for Barack. She likes Barack's view on the war in Iraq, and how he brings everyone into the political process. After the rally, Maria went home to call undecided voters in Pennsylvania.



Christine of Ambler believes that the past 30 years of American government has gone backwards and that Barack can bring us into the future. She is supporting Barack because she says “the issues that affect women are the same issues that affect everyone: the environment, the war in Iraq, family values, energy and the economy.” Christine was one of the many women who went canvassing after being fired up at the rally.



Help Barack in Pennsylvania by volunteering to Get Out The Vote!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Getting out the Vote in Pennsylvania (2008-04-13 07:30)

With about a week left until the Pennsylvania primary, the focus shifts to voter turnout.

The Keystone State will be a tough one for the Obama campaign and their hopes rely mainly on registering overs and getting out the vote. They completed a successful voter registration drive, so now the task is getting Obama supporters to the polls.

Young people could end up playing the vital role.

Check out the YouTube video of the University of Pittsburgh student forum. Representatives of Students for Obama answered policy question at the forum coordinated by the University of Pittsburgh College Democrats. [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Sen. Bob Casey talks up Obama on CNN (2008-04-13 18:47)

Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey tells Wolf Blitzer of CNN why Sen. Barack Obama will benefit his state as president. [EMBED]



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Pennsylvania and the Democratic Establishment (2008-04-14 10:00)

A lot of people are wondering why Barack Obama is having trouble in places with strong Democratic establishments like Pennsylvania. They might be wondering also if Hillary Clinton is right and Barack may have trouble in these states during the general election.

Let's remember that Hillary is strong in these states because she's long been part of the establishment that her husband helped create. This is a Democratic establishment. These are the people least likely to vote for a Republican or even a Green Party candidate for exactly the same reasons they are more likely to vote for Clinton. So they can be expected to strongly support the Democrat whoever that candidate might be.

These are old school types where the law of "I scratch your back, you scratch my back" rules. We saw some of this mentality in the Clinton camp fury that followed Gov. Bill Richardson's endorsement of Obama. Of course, there's nothing wrong with expecting favors to be returned, but not when it interferes with the best interests of the people and getting the people's job done.

Also, we should note that the problem of corporations expecting favors in return for campaign donations is one of the problems that has created the current political mess.

In old school politics, freelancing is discouraged and loyalty is required. Thus, when you have a strong Democratic machine, you will find that things are lined up like dominoes for the establishment nod.

Of course, an upset can still occur when there is a motivated grassroots effort that turns out a lot of new or unexpected voters.

X


Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Ordinary People donating to Campaign (2008-04-14 20:36)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this email today highlighting the (extra)ordinary people supporting Barack Obama.

Friend –

 You've probably heard about the latest dust-up in the Democratic race.

A few days ago, Barack spoke about the frustrations that working people in this country are feeling and said what we all know is true: that many people are bitter and angry because they believe their government isn't listening to them.

You and I both know that the hope of changing that reality is what drives the unprecedented support for this campaign from ordinary people in every part of the country.

But our opponents have been spinning the media and peddling fake outrage around the clock. John McCain's campaign, which will continue the George Bush economic policies that have devastated the middle class, called Barack out of touch and elitist. And Hillary Clinton, who is the candidate who said lobbyists represent real people, didn't just echo the Republican candidate's talking points: she actually used the very same words to pile on with more attacks.

These comments show just how out of touch Senator McCain and Senator Clinton are with the reality of what's happening in this election.

We've built the broadest campaign of ordinary people in the history of presidential politics – and more people across this country have voted for Barack Obama than either one of them.

And we've done it the right way: our campaign is funded by everyday people giving \$5 or more. That's distinctly different from Senator McCain and Senator Clinton, who both rely on money from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs.

There's nothing elitist about a movement of more than a million people standing up for a different kind of politics.

If you're fed up with these kinds of tired attacks, you can do something about it right now. We're setting a goal of 1.5 million people giving to this campaign by May 6th.

Right now, one of those million people who have already given to our campaign is waiting to match your first donation. No matter what amount you choose to give, our system will match you with a supporter who has promised to match someone's first donation today.

You can see for yourself exactly what kind of movement this is. When you make your donation, you'll see the name and town of the person just like you who matched your gift. You'll also see a note from them with their story and why they gave, if they chose to write one.

You'll double the impact of your donation if you make a matching gift right now. Will you help fight back now?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

Barack Obama's own life and story are reflected in the character of this grassroots campaign. He was raised by a single mother with help from his grandparents. He has a family he loves, not long ago finished paying off his student loans, and he's doing what he can to help change this country.

That's what he's done for his entire career. After graduating, he became a community organizer, working with people in Chicago who – like many people across the country right now – felt left behind by their

leaders.

When you make a matching donation, you'll be paired with someone with that same sense that it's time for a government that is responsible to the people for a change.

Someone is waiting to hear your story, and to share theirs with you. If you can support the campaign at this crucial moment, you'll be able to share your story about why you're committed to this campaign.

And because this is a matching donation, your gift of \$25 will be doubled by another supporter. You'll have twice the impact and help reach our unprecedented 1.5 million-person goal. Make a matching donation now and be a part of history:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

The attacks from the Clinton campaign – on Barack Obama himself, and on supporters like you – can be expected to increase as her chances of winning dwindle further.

A few weeks ago, one of her top aides tried to diminish our success by referring to the places we've won as "boutique" states and to our supporters as the "latte-sipping crowd."

That means 30 states and territories – twice as many as Senator Clinton has won – qualify as "boutique." And the nearly 15 million people who have voted for us (again, more than Senator Clinton) must drink a lot of latte.

It's clear that Senator Clinton will continue to say or do anything as her campaign gets more and more negative.

But 1.5 million donors will be an astonishing and undeniable signal that it isn't the elites fueling this movement – it's the American people.

That starts with you.

Thank you,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Upcoming Obama Events in Pennsylvania and Indiana (2008-04-15 06:23)

Appearances by Michelle Obama

Apr 15 Community Event with Michelle Obama

in York, PA

Apr 15 Stand for Change Rally with Michelle Obama

in Haverford, PA

Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama

in Evansville, IN













Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama

in Indianapolis, IN

Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama

in Anderson, IN

Obama Campaign Ads in Pennsylvania

-  "It Won't" Television Ad
-  "Billy" Television Ad
-  "Maya" Television Ad
-  "Quiet" Television Ad
-  "One Voice" Television Ad
-  "Mother" Television Ad
-  "Fill" Radio Ad
-  "For Decades" Television Ad
-  "Nothing's Changed" Television Ad
-  "Opportunity" Television Ad
-  "Carry" Television Ad
-  "Toughest" Television Ad



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Upcoming Obama Events in Pennsylvania (2008-04-15 06:23)

Appearances by Michelle Obama

Apr 15 Community Event with Michelle Obama
in York, PA

Apr 15 Stand for Change Rally with Michelle Obama
in Haverford, PA Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama
in Evansville, IN Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama
in Indianapolis, IN Apr 16 Community Event with Michelle Obama
in Anderson, IN

Barack Obama: Disappointed (2008-04-15 20:10)

The news today indicates that inflation is flaming out of control due to rising fuel and food costs even as the economy shrinks.

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this email today in response to the new barrage of attacks by Sen. McCain and Sen. Clinton.

Dear Friend,

✉ In the last 24 hours we saw renewed attacks from Senator McCain and Senator Clinton.

The same John McCain who voted to extend the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest few said I was "out of touch" when I spoke about the frustrations that working people in this country are feeling.

Maybe that's to be expected from John McCain. But I was disappointed to hear the exact same talking points from my Democratic colleague, Hillary Clinton. When a candidate who believes lobbyists represent "real people" says that I'm out of touch, that's when you know politics is being played.

But in the last 24 hours we've also heard from people like you.

We asked some of the 1.3 million people who have already donated to this movement for change to share their story and promise to match your first donation to the campaign.

Here are some of the people waiting to match your donation:

Rick from Florida matched a donation of \$25, writing:

"I am a typical American just like you. I've served in the military, I work hard for a living and I want what's best for my country, not just me. I've seen what's happened over the last years and I am deeply saddened, worried and, yes, even bitter. But I see something in Barack Obama I have never seen in a presidential candidate in my own 45 years and the hope and inspiration I feel right now brings tears even as I write this to you. We don't get many chances like this. I don't have much to give but I give what I can because it's important and I ask that you please consider joining me with a few dollars that, added to the small contributions from millions of people like you and I, can be what it takes to really change things. Thanks in advance!"

Eve from Oregon matched a donation of \$50, writing:

"I'm thrilled that Barack recognizes how frustrated so many of us are by the politics of fear and cynicism we've seen these past seven years! But what really sets him apart is that he's not afraid to speak the truth and say what's not supposed to be spoken - that yes, we can love our country but also be frustrated with it's direction and leadership.

Thank you for making a donation to this amazing...campaign! Yes, we can!"

See for yourself what kind of movement this is. Make a matching donation now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

When we started this campaign, we said we were going to do something different.

We said we weren't going to take money from Washington lobbyists and PACs. And the cynics said we would never be able to compete against the status quo.

But what the cynics didn't anticipate was you.

They didn't understand that people like Rick, Eve, and you were tired of a politics that was about tearing each other down instead of lifting this country up.

And they didn't understand that you were going to finance this campaign with contributions of \$5, \$25 and \$50 at a time.

There's nothing elitist about the largest grassroots campaign in the history of our country - and you can prove that right now.

Make a matching donation of \$25:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

Thank you for all that you're doing to change our country.

Barack

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-04-17 16:52:00)

After being a witness to Hillary's whining last night I really wish that the character of the Clintons would be emphasized a little more. I know Obama wants to stick to the high road and that is very commendable, but everytime she says that "she can beat John McCain where Senator Obama cannot" it could be brought to the publics attention that the 3 or 4 minor goofs on Obama's part can in no way amount to the many, many gaffs of the Clinton years, from Whitewater (and guy who supposedly committed suicide in an apartment that had been rented by Hillary). All of the crap Bill did, plus a lot of stuff we don't know about. The Republicans will tear her apart. They'll make the Jeremiah Wright thing look like peanuts. If the Democrats want to win this election, they cannot nominate Hillary. And thats not mentioning the lies!!!

Sharon
Illinois

(2008-04-16 10:36)

Two North Carolina and one Indiana congressmen endorsed Barack Obama today.

Reps. Mel Watt and David Price of North Carolina, and André Carson of Indiana announced their support for the Illinois senator.

"I am proud to support Barack Obama for President because he represents the kind of bold leadership and change that our country desperately needs. I know Senator Obama, like me, is committed to ending the war in Iraq, bringing down gas prices, and creating good jobs here in Indiana, and he has the judgment and courage to solve these problems," Congressman Carson said. "Senator Obama is a fighter for working families, and part of a new generation of leadership that will bring needed change for our country and I am proud to endorse him for president."

Also, three Pennsylvania newspapers , the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Bucks County Courier-Times and the Patriot News , and 25 Of 35 North Dakota Democratic State Legislators

endorsed Obama today.

X



✕

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Videos from the Campaign Trail (2008-04-16 13:15)

Michelle Obama on The Colbert Report.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama on HBO Real Sports.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

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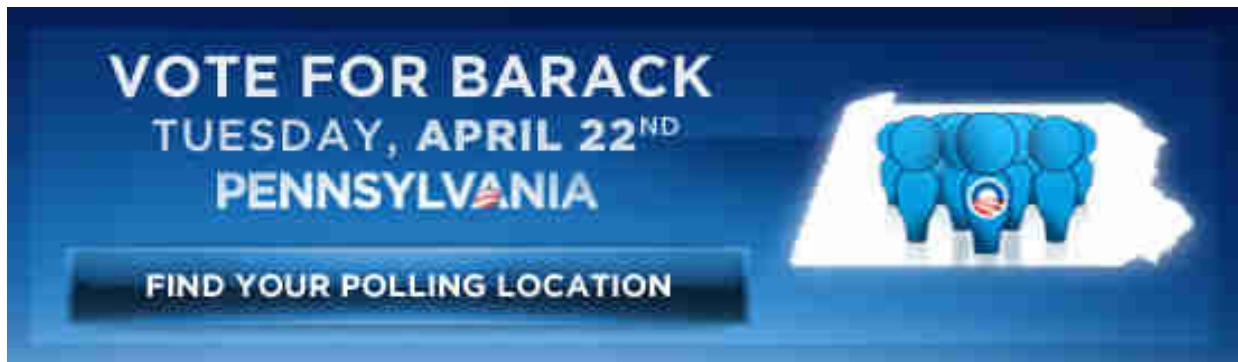
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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Turnout Effort is Key (2008-04-17 07:43)

With the weekend approaching, the get out the vote effort will fire up to full throttle. The four days leading up to Tuesday are traditionally the best for reminding and motivating supporters about the election. Many people need a little push to go to the polls, and that group often decides elections in the end. Here is a video of Bonnie, a volunteer from Greene County, Pennsylvania.
[EMBED]



April 18 On Track for Change Rally
in Philadelphia



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Anonymous (2008-04-17 10:44:00)

USA needs urgently someone like Obama to take its main lead. The image of the country is now so affected worldwide that its consequences are being reflected in many areas such as economy, respect for US opinions and so on. The world is looking closely to the actions and attitudes of all main candidates, specially now after a disastrous management by the egocentric cheater Bush.

Certainly Hillary with her dirty tricks to pressure-impose her win is not going to help her in the future. Unfortunately most of US voters are mood motivated people that don't hav a clue what going on. They are just manipulated by the big shark US media that exactly knows how to implement their influences to these masses. It seems what most US people want is to choose the nastier, cheater person and they wrongly think that such person is more capable to lead the country. They are totally wrong.

USA needs urgently to have a positive image around the world and this image will only be achieved by someone honest, more human, and more conscientious about the issues that matter most.

Manny of you might say "we don't give a darn about the rest of the world thinks of us, we are just better. Period." This attitude is utterly wrong and if it continues, other economies will take over, leaving US on an eternal crisis.

Obama Video Roundup for Thursday (2008-04-17 21:38)

Barack Obama answers a question on his strategy for winning in November during a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina.

[EMBED]

Barack talks about last night's debate.

[EMBED]

Former Hillary Clinton supporter, Susan Petro, switched her support to Barack Obama and is volunteering in Pennsylvania.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2008-04-17 21:38)

Barack Obama answers a question on his strategy for winning in November during a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Barack Obama speaks about John McCain (2008-04-18 09:12)

Sen. Barack Obama talks about John McCain during an appearance in Erie, Pennsylvania.

[EMBED]

He also made a surprise appearance on the Colbert Report last night.

[EMBED]

Remember that polls are very bad at predicting voter turnout. Click on the button below to make calls to Pennsylvania voters.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-04-18 09:22:00)

I'm assuming you've seen McCain Girls, yes? (<http://video.236.com/services/link/bcpid1272014315/bclid1125909605/bctid1499645468>)

((Nothing on Obama Girl!))

Former Clinton Labor Secretary Robert Reich Endorses Obama (2008-04-18 15:17)

From barackobama.com :

Former Clinton Labor Secretary Robert Reich Endorses Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Friday, April 18, 2008 at 10:12 AM

Robert Reich, who served as Secretary of Labor under President Clinton has endorsed Barack Obama for President. From Reich's blog...

✕ The formal act of endorsing a candidate is generally (and properly) limited to editorial pages and elected officials whose constituents might be influenced by their choice. The rest of us shouldn't assume anyone cares. My avoidance of offering a formal endorsement until now has also been affected by the pull of old friendships and my reluctance as a teacher and commentator to be openly partisan. But my conscience won't let me be silent any longer.

I believe that Barack Obama should be elected President of the United States.

Although Hillary Clinton has offered solid and sensible policy proposals, Obama's strike me as even more so. His plans for reforming Social Security and health care have a better chance of succeeding. His approaches to the housing crisis and the failures of our financial markets are sounder than hers. His ideas for improving our public schools and confronting the problems of poverty and inequality are more coherent and compelling. He has put forward the more enlightened foreign policy and the more thoughtful plan for controlling global warming.

He also presents the best chance of creating a new politics in which citizens become active participants rather than cynical spectators. He has energized many who had given up on politics. He has engaged young people to an extent not seen in decades. He has spoken about the most difficult problems our society faces, such as race, without spinning or simplifying. He has rightly identified the armies of lawyers and lobbyists that have commandeered our democracy, and pointed the way toward taking it back.

Finally, he offers the best hope of transcending the boundaries of class, race, and nationality that have divided us. His life history exemplifies this, as do his writings and his record of public service. For these same reasons, he offers the best possibility of restoring America's moral authority in the world.

Thank you Robert Reich!

Show your support for this movement by making a matching donation today. If you haven't done it yet, it's a great way to not only aid the campaign but make a real connection with another supporter across the country.

X

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Sacramento for Obama Debate Watching Party (2008-04-18 16:06)

Here's a new video I uploaded to YouTube.

Sacramento for Obama watched the Apr. 16, 2008 debate at its new campaign office on 65th St. They will be hosting phone-banking parties to call Pennsylvania this weekend.

Sacramento Campaign Office Phone: 916.400.3252

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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[EMBED]

35,000 in Philadelphia (2008-04-18 19:31)

Wow, a huge crowd in Philadelphia this late in the campaign. A very good sign for Barack Obama and supporters.

35,000 in Philadelphia

by Caitlin Harvey

, Friday, April 18, 2008 at 06:56 PM

Over 35,000 people came out to hear Barack speak at the largest rally in the campaign's history in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia tonight.

In his remarks, he challenged America to join him in declaring independence from the Washington game-playing and special interest-dominated politics that have blocked so much progress in recent years.





Barack said:

It was over two hundred years ago that a group of patriots gathered in this city to do something that no one in the world believed they could do. After years of a government that didn't listen to them, or speak for them, or represent their hopes and their dreams, a few humble colonists came to Philadelphia to declare their independence from the tyranny of the British throne.

The union they created has endured for two centuries not because we're perfect, but because we've always been perfectible – because each generation of Americans has been willing to stand up and sacrifice and do what's necessary to inch us closer to the ideals at the core of our founding promise – equality, and liberty, and opportunity for all who seek it. That's how we survived a civil war and two world wars; a Great Depression and great struggles for civil rights and women's rights and worker's rights, and now Philadelphia it's our turn.

...

The challenges we face are not just the fault of one man or one party. How many years – how many decades – have we been talking about solving our health care crisis? How many Presidents have promised to end our dependence on foreign oil? How many jobs have gone overseas in the 70s, and the 80s, and the 90s? And we still don't have a strategy for American workers to succeed in a global economy. We're still talking about it in 2008. And everyone here knows why.

Because in every election, politicians come to your cities and your towns, and they tell you what you want to hear, and they make big promises, and they lay out all these plans and policies. But then they go back to Washington when the campaign's over, and nothing changes. Lobbyists spend millions of dollars to get their way. Folks would rather score political points than solve real problems. Instead of fighting for health care or jobs, Washington ends up fighting over the latest distraction of the week. It happens year after year after year.

But not this year. Not this time. This year we can't afford the same old politics. This year we can declare our independence from this kind of politics. That's change we need right now. And that's the choice you'll face on Tuesday.

...

In four days, you get the chance to help bring about the change that we need right now. Here in the city and the state that gave birth to our democracy, we can declare our independence

from the politics that has shut us out, and let us down, and told us to settle.

We can declare our independence from the politics that's put the oil companies, and the drug companies, and the insurance companies in charge of the decisions that impact our lives and our children's lives.

We can declare independence from the say-anything, do-anything politics that's all about how to win and not why we should; that politics that exploits our differences instead of speaking to our common concerns and our common destinies as Americans.

We can do all these things, but only if we declare our independence from the cynicism and the doubt that tells us that change can't happen.

Declare your independence from cynicism and doubt by volunteering to get out the vote in your community!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Michelle Obama: Reach out to Pennsylvania (2008-04-19 07:09)

Michelle Obama sent out this email today.

Dear Paul,

✕ Barack is a community organizer at heart, and he is running this race the way he worked on the South Side of Chicago – bringing folks to the table to work together, make their voices heard and create a better life for themselves.

Now, he needs you. He needs ordinary people investing in this campaign – not just with their dollars, but also with their energy. Because as Barack always says, when ordinary people come together they can do extraordinary things.

When you get used to getting on the phone with fellow supporters, reaching beyond your comfort zone, and being engaged in the political process, you won't just help win an election – you'll be prepared to help bring about the kind of change we need.

With just three days left before the Pennsylvania primary, staff and local volunteers are hard at work in the Keystone State, but they need the support of the movement that has already spread across the country.

In the next three days, Pennsylvania needs you.

And the best part is, you can make an impact in Pennsylvania by making calls from your home. Use our online calling system to get started now:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callPA>

Thanks to you, after more than forty contests in this race, we're fortunate to have won the most votes, delegates, and states.

By every measure, this isn't supposed to have happened – yet it's happening all over the country, and that's something to be proud of.

But we can't take anything for granted. Every vote and delegate at stake is crucial, and Barack will be the underdog every day until he's sitting in the Oval Office.

Making calls is one of the best things you can do to help Barack in Pennsylvania, and it's easy:

- When you log in, you'll get a list of 20 names that only you will receive.
- Click on a name and you'll be led through a simple script, question by question.
- If you want, you can now print your numbers and the script and enter your results back into the system later.

Pick up the phone right away to start making a difference in Pennsylvania . Make five calls now, and I'm sure you'll want to make five more:

<http://my.barackobama.com/callPA>

If we can all chip in to make the push in Pennsylvania in these next three days, we'll be more than ready to reach for the change this country needs when Barack is in the White House .

Thank you for all that you're doing,

Michelle



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Young Pennsylvania Voters attracted to Obama (2008-04-20 06:59)

Young Pennsylvania voters take a shine to Obama

Sun Apr 20, 2008 9:17am EDT

[-] Text [+]



 1 of 9

Full Size



powered by  Sphere

By Paul Eckert

PITTSBURGH (Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is attracting record numbers of young voters – but will a demographic known for low turnout vote in enough numbers to defeat Hillary Clinton in the graying state of Pennsylvania?

Attracted by opposition to the Iraq war, antipathy to President George W. Bush or Clinton – and Obama's aura of "hope" – Pennsylvanians in the 18-29 age bracket are rallying, registering and switching parties like never before.

At the University of Pittsburgh, a "power rally" by Pitt Students for Obama got 2,000 students to register as Democrats in order to vote for the senator. The state does not allow independents to vote in primary contests.

"There were a lot of independents and Republicans who support Senator Obama who had to switch their registration for Tuesday's primary," said Sarah Posner, 21, the group's leader.

Pennsylvania is the next battleground for Clinton and Obama in their contest for the right to face Republican John McCain in the November election.

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, or CIRCLE, which has tracked youth voting since the U.S. voting age was lowered to 18 in 1972, says this year has seen the highest national registration rate in history among those under 30.

Youth turnout in some state primaries this year tripled or even quadrupled over the previous presidential election, said CIRCLE Director Peter Levine.

NO LOBBYISTS, BETTER U.S. IMAGE Continued...

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



On Track for Change in Pennsylvania (2008-04-20 08:33)

Nice speech by Barack Obama in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, one of the "whistle stops," on his train tour of the state.
[EMBED]

Whistle Stops in Pennsylvania Saturday, April 19 On Track for Change Tour

in Wynnewood, Paoli, Downingtown, Lancaster, & Harrisburg

Sunday, April 20 On Track for Change Town Hall

in Reading

Sunday, April 20 On Track for Change Rally with Sen. Bob Casey and Caroline Kennedy

in Scranton

Monday, April 21 On Track for Change Rally

in Pittsburgh

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



'Slow Roll' Stumping (2008-04-20 10:41)

Now this is a good example of campaigning on the move. Of course, it's not possible to stop in every community in the state. Barack speaks to folks while the campaign train slowly moves through towns in Pennsylvania. One person is apparently even mowing the lawn as Barack speaks to him.

[EMBED]



PENNSYLVANIA

MAKE CALLS

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2008-04-20 10:41)

Now this is a good example of campaigning on the move. Barack speaks to folks while the campaign train slowly moves through communities in Pennsylvania. One person is apparently even mowing the lawn

(2008-04-20 10:41)

Now this is a good example of campaigning on the move. Barack speaks to folks while the campaign train slowly moves through communities in Pennsylvania. One person is apparently even m

Barack Obama: Plan to Strengthen the Economy (2008-04-20 17:27)

From barackobama.com :

Plan to Strengthen the Economy

"I believe that America's free market has been the engine of America's great progress. It's created a prosperity that is the envy of the world. It's led to a standard of living unmatched in history. And it has provided great rewards to the innovators and risk-takers who have made America a beacon for science, and technology, and discovery...We are all in this together. From CEOs to shareholders, from financiers to factory workers, we all have a stake in each other's success because the more Americans prosper, the more America prospers."

— Barack Obama, New York, NY, September 17, 2007

At a Glance

- Provide Middle Class Americans Tax Relief

- Trade
- Technology, Innovation and Creating Jobs
- Labor
- Protect Homeownership and Crack Down on Mortgage Fraud
- Address Predatory Credit Card Practices
- Reform Bankruptcy Laws
- Work/Family Balance

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

Watch the Video



The Problem

Wages are Stagnant as Prices Rise: While wages remain flat, the costs of basic necessities are increasing. The cost of in-state college tuition has grown 35 percent over the past five years. Health care costs have risen four times faster than wages over the past six years. And the personal savings rate is now the lowest it's been since the Great Depression.

Tax Cuts for Wealthy Instead of Middle Class: The Bush tax cuts give those who earn over \$1 million dollars a tax cut nearly 160 times greater than that received by middle-income Americans. At the same time, this administration has refused to tackle health care, education and housing in a manner that benefits the middle class.

Barack Obama's Plan

Provide Middle Class Americans Tax Relief

Obama will cut income taxes by \$1,000 for working families to offset the payroll tax they pay.

- **Provide a Tax Cut for Working Families:** Obama will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they need. Obama will create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. The "Making Work Pay" tax credit will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans.
- **Simplify Tax Filings for Middle Class Americans:** Obama will dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans will be able to do their taxes in less than five minutes. Obama will ensure that the IRS uses the information it already gets from banks and employers to give taxpayers the option of pre-filled tax forms to verify, sign and return. Experts estimate that the Obama proposal will save Americans up to 200 million total hours of work and aggravation and up to \$2 billion in tax preparer fees.

Trade

Obama believes that trade with foreign nations should strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs. He will stand firm against agreements that undermine our economic security.

- **Fight for Fair Trade:** Obama will fight for a trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support good American jobs. He will use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world and stand firm against agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement that fail to live up to those important benchmarks. Obama will also pressure the World Trade Organization to enforce trade agreements and stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and nontariff barriers on U.S. exports.
- **Amend the North American Free Trade Agreement:** Obama believes that NAFTA and its potential were oversold to the American people. Obama will work with the leaders of Canada and Mexico to fix NAFTA so that it works for American workers.
- **Improve Transition Assistance:** To help all workers adapt to a rapidly changing economy, Obama would update the existing system of Trade Adjustment Assistance by extending it to service industries, creating flexible education accounts to help workers retrain, and providing retraining assistance for workers in sectors of the economy vulnerable to dislocation before they lose their jobs.

Technology, Innovation and Creating Jobs

Obama will encourage the deployment of the most modern communications infrastructure to reduce the costs of health care, help solve our energy crisis, create new jobs, and fuel our economic growth.

- **Support Job Creation:** Barack Obama believes we need to double federal funding for basic research and make the research and development tax credit permanent to help create high-paying, secure jobs. Obama will also make long-term investments in education, training, and workforce development so that Americans can leverage our strengths - our ingenuity and entrepreneurialism - to create new high-wage jobs and prosper in a world economy.
- **Invest in U.S. Manufacturing:** The Obama comprehensive energy independence and climate change plan will invest in America's highly-skilled manufacturing workforce and manufacturing centers to ensure that American workers have the skills and tools they need to pioneer the first wave of green technologies that will be in high demand throughout the world. Obama will also provide assistance to the domestic auto industry to ensure that new fuel-efficient vehicles are built by American workers.
- **Create New Job Training Programs for Clean Technologies:** The Obama plan will increase funding for federal workforce training programs and direct these programs to incorporate green technologies training, such as advanced manufacturing and weatherization training, into their efforts to help Americans find and retain stable, high-paying jobs. Obama will also create an energy-focused youth jobs program to invest in disconnected and disadvantaged youth.
- **Boost the Renewable Energy Sector and Create New Jobs:** The Obama plan will create new federal policies, and expand existing ones, that have been proven to create new American jobs. Obama will create a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that will require 25 percent of American electricity be derived from renewable sources by 2025, which has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs on its own. Obama will also extend the Production Tax Credit, a credit used successfully by American farmers and investors to increase renewable energy production and create new local jobs.
- **Deploy Next-Generation Broadband:** Obama believes we can get broadband to every community in America through a combination of reform of the Universal Service Fund, better use of the nation's wireless spectrum, promotion of next-generation facilities, technologies and applications, and new tax and loan incentives.
- **Protect the Openness of the Internet:** Obama supports the basic principle that network providers should not be allowed to charge fees to privilege the content or applications of some web sites and Internet applications over others. This principle will ensure that the new competitors, especially small or nonprofit speakers, have the same opportunity as big companies to innovate and reach large audiences.

- **Invest in Rural Areas:** Obama will invest in rural small businesses and fight to expand high-speed Internet access. He will improve rural schools and attract more doctors to rural areas.

Labor

Obama will strengthen the ability of workers to organize unions. He will fight for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Obama will ensure that his labor appointees support workers' rights and will work to ban the permanent replacement of striking workers. Obama will also increase the minimum wage and index it to inflation to ensure it rises every year.

- **Ensure Freedom to Unionize:** Obama believes that workers should have the freedom to choose whether to join a union without harassment or intimidation from their employers. Obama cosponsored and is strong advocate for the Employee Free Choice Act, a bipartisan effort to assure that workers can exercise their right to organize. He will continue to fight for EFCA's passage and sign it into law.
- **Fight Attacks on Workers' Right to Organize:** Obama has fought the Bush National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) efforts to strip workers of their right to organize. He is a cosponsor of legislation to overturn the NLRB's "Kentucky River" decisions classifying hundreds of thousands of nurses, construction, and professional workers as "supervisors" who are not protected by federal labor laws.
- **Protect Striking Workers:** Obama supports the right of workers to bargain collectively and strike if necessary. He will work to ban the permanent replacement of striking workers, so workers can stand up for themselves without worrying about losing their livelihoods.
- **Raise the Minimum Wage:** Barack Obama will raise the minimum wage, index it to inflation and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to make sure that full-time workers earn a living wage that allows them to raise their families and pay for basic needs.

Protect Homeownership and Crack Down on Mortgage Fraud

Obama will crack down on fraudulent brokers and lenders. He will also make sure homebuyers have honest and complete information about their mortgage options, and he will give a tax credit to all middle-class homeowners.

- **Create a Universal Mortgage Credit:** Obama will create a 10 percent universal mortgage credit to provide homeowners who do not itemize tax relief. This credit will provide an average of \$500 to 10 million homeowners, the majority of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year.
- **Ensure More Accountability in the Subprime Mortgage Industry:** Obama has been closely monitoring the subprime mortgage situation for years, and introduced comprehensive legislation over a year ago to fight mortgage fraud and protect consumers against abusive lending practices. Obama's STOP FRAUD Act provides the first federal definition of mortgage fraud, increases funding for federal and state law enforcement programs, creates new criminal penalties for mortgage professionals found guilty of fraud, and requires industry insiders to report suspicious activity.
- **Mandate Accurate Loan Disclosure:** Obama will create a Homeowner Obligation Made Explicit (HOME) score, which will provide potential borrowers with a simplified, standardized borrower metric (similar to APR) for home mortgages. The HOME score will allow individuals to easily compare various mortgage products and understand the full cost of the loan.
- **Create Fund to Help Homeowners Avoid Foreclosures:** Obama will create a fund to help people refinance their mortgages and provide comprehensive supports to innocent homeowners. The fund will be partially paid for by Obama's increased penalties on lenders who act irresponsibly and commit fraud.

- **Close Bankruptcy Loophole for Mortgage Companies:** Obama will work to eliminate the provision that prevents bankruptcy courts from modifying an individual's mortgage payments. Obama believes that the subprime mortgage industry, which has engaged in dangerous and sometimes unscrupulous business practices, should not be shielded by outdated federal law.

Address Predatory Credit Card Practices

Obama will establish a five-star rating system so that every consumer knows the risk involved in every credit card. He also will establish a Credit Card Bill of Rights to stop credit card companies from exploiting consumers with unfair practices.

- **Create a Credit Card Rating System to Improve Disclosure:** Obama will create a credit card rating system, modeled on five-star systems used for other consumer products, to provide consumers an easily identifiable ranking of credit cards, based on the card's features. Credit card companies will be required to display the rating on all application and contract materials, enabling consumers to quickly understand all of the major provisions of a credit card without having to rely exclusively on fine print in lengthy documents.
- **Establish a Credit Card Bill of Rights to Protect Consumers:** Obama will create a Credit Card Bill of Rights to protect consumers. The Obama plan will:
 - Ban Unilateral Changes
 - Apply Interest Rate Increases Only to Future Debt
 - Prohibit Interest on Fees
 - Prohibit "Universal Defaults"
 - Require Prompt and Fair Crediting of Cardholder Payments

Reform Bankruptcy Laws

Obama will reform our bankruptcy laws to protect working people, ban executive bonuses for bankrupt companies, and require disclosure of all pension investments.

- **Cap Outlandish Interest Rates on Payday Loans and Improve Disclosure:** Obama supports extending a 36 percent interest cap to all Americans. Obama will require lenders to provide clear and simplified information about loan fees, payments and penalties, which is why he'll require lenders to provide this information during the application process.
- **Encourage Responsible Lending Institutions to Make Small Consumer Loans:** Obama will encourage banks, credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions to provide affordable short-term and small-dollar loans and to drive unscrupulous lenders out of business.
- **Reform Bankruptcy Laws to Protect Families Facing a Medical Crisis:** Obama will create an exemption in bankruptcy law for individuals who can prove they filed for bankruptcy because of medical expenses. This exemption will create a process that forgives the debt and lets the individuals get back on their feet.

Work/Family Balance

Obama will double funding for after-school programs, expand the Family Medical Leave Act, provide low-income families with a refundable tax credit to help with their child-care expenses, and encourage flexible work schedules.

- **Expand the Family and Medical Leave Act:** The FMLA covers only certain employees of employers with 50 or more employees. Obama will expand it to cover businesses with 25 or more employees. He will expand the FMLA to cover more purposes as well, including allowing workers to take leave for elder care needs; allowing parents up to 24 hours of leave each year to participate in their children's academic activities; and expanding FMLA to cover leave for employees to address domestic violence.

- **Encourage States to Adopt Paid Leave:** As president, Obama will initiate a strategy to encourage all 50 states to adopt paid-leave systems. Obama will provide a \$1.5 billion fund to assist states with start-up costs and to help states offset the costs for employees and employers.
- **Expand High-Quality Afterschool Opportunities:** Obama will double funding for the main federal support for afterschool programs, the 21st Century Learning Centers program, to serve a million more children. Obama will include measures to maximize performance and effectiveness across grantees nationwide.
- **Expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit:** The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides too little relief to families that struggle to afford child care expenses. Obama will reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for their child care expenses.
- **Protect Against Caregiver Discrimination:** Workers with family obligations often are discriminated against in the workplace. Obama will enforce the recently-enacted Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines on caregiver discrimination.
- **Expand Flexible Work Arrangements:** Obama will create a program to inform businesses about the benefits of flexible work schedules; help businesses create flexible work opportunities; and increase federal incentives for telecommuting. Obama will also make the federal government a model employer in terms of adopting flexible work schedules and permitting employees to request flexible arrangements.

Barack Obama's Record

- **Housing:** In the U.S. Senate, Obama introduced the STOP FRAUD Act to increase penalties for mortgage fraud and provide more protections for low-income homebuyers, well before the current subprime crisis began.
- **Predatory Lending:** In the Illinois State Senate, Obama called attention to predatory lending issues. Obama sponsored legislation to combat predatory payday loans, and he also was credited with lobbying the state to more closely regulate some of the most egregious predatory lending practices.
- **American Jobs:** Barack Obama introduced the Patriot Employer Act of 2007 to provide a tax credit to companies that maintain or increase the number of full-time workers in America relative to those outside the US; maintain their corporate headquarters in America; pay decent wages; prepare workers for retirement; provide health insurance; and support employees who serve in the military.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

- ☒ Read the plan
- ☒ Read the plan for small businesses
- ☒ Read the plan to protect homeownership and crack down on mortgage fraud

Read the Speech

- ☒
- ☒
- ☒
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X <http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid1351322015http://www.brightcove.com-/channel.jsp?channel=353512430>

[EMBED]

Login to my.BarackObama.com

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TEXT HOPE TO 62262

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Michael Moore endorses Barack Obama (2008-04-21 07:41)

Michael Moore has endorsed Barack Obama, a move that could help the Illinois senator with some undecided progressives especially those who had supported John Edwards.

Here's the text of Moore's endorsement.

My Vote's for Obama (if I could vote) ...by Michael Moore April 21st, 2008

Friends,

I don't get to vote for President this primary season. I live in Michigan. The party leaders (both here and in D.C.) couldn't get their act together, and thus our votes will not be counted.

So, if you live in Pennsylvania, can you do me a favor? Will you please cast my vote — and yours — on Tuesday for Senator Barack Obama?

I haven't spoken publicly 'til now as to who I would vote for, primarily for two reasons: 1) Who cares?; and 2) I (and most people I know) don't give a rat's ass whose name is on the ballot in November, as long as there's a picture of JFK and FDR riding a donkey at the top of the ballot, and the word "Democratic" next to the candidate's name.

Seriously, I know so many people who don't care if the name under the Big "D" is Dancer, Prancer, Clinton or Blitzen. It can be Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Barry Obama or the Dalai Lama.

Well, that sounded good last year, but over the past two months, the actions and words of Hillary Clinton have gone from being merely disappointing to downright disgusting. I guess the debate last week was the final straw. I've watched Senator Clinton and her husband play this game of appealing to the worst side of white people, but last Wednesday, when she hurled the name "Farrakhan" out of nowhere, well that's when the silly season came to an early end for me. She said the "F" word to scare white people, pure and simple. Of course, Obama has no connection to Farrakhan. But, according to Senator Clinton, Obama's pastor does — AND the "church bulletin" once included a Los Angeles Times op-ed from some guy with Hamas! No, not the church bulletin!

This sleazy attempt to smear Obama was brilliantly explained the following night by Stephen Colbert. He pointed out that if Obama is supported by Ted Kennedy, who is Catholic, and the Catholic Church is led by a Pope who was in the Hitler Youth, that can mean only one thing: OBAMA LOVES HITLER!

Yes, Senator Clinton, that's how you sounded. Like you were nuts. Like you were a bigot stoking the fires of stupidity. How sad that I would ever have to write those words about you. You have devoted your life to good causes and good deeds. And now to throw it all away for an office you can't win unless you smear the black man so much that the superdelegates cry "Uncle (Tom)" and give it all to you.

But that can't happen. You cast your die when you voted to start this bloody war. When you did that you were like Moses who lost it for a moment and, because of that, was prohibited from entering the Promised Land.

How sad for a country that wanted to see the first woman elected to the White House. That day will come — but it won't be you. We'll have to wait for the current Democratic governor of Kansas to run in 2016 (you read it here first!).

There are those who say Obama isn't ready, or he's voted wrong on this or that. But that's looking at the trees and not the forest. What we are witnessing is not just a candidate but a profound, massive public movement for change. My endorsement is more for Obama The Movement than it is for Obama the candidate.

That is not to take anything away from this exceptional man. But what's going on is bigger than him at this point, and that's a good thing for the country. Because, when he wins in November, that Obama Movement is going to have to stay alert and active. Corporate America is not going to give up their hold on our government just because we say so. President Obama is going to need a nation of millions to stand behind him.

I know some of you will say, 'Mike, what have the Democrats done to deserve our vote?' That's a damn good question. In November of '06, the country loudly sent a message that we wanted the war to end. Yet the Democrats have done nothing. So why should we be so eager to line up happily behind them?

I'll tell you why. Because I can't stand one more friggin' minute of this administration and the permanent, irreversible damage it has done to our people and to this world. I'm almost at the point where I don't care if the Democrats don't have a backbone or a kneebone or a thought in their dizzy little heads. Just as long as their name ain't "Bush" and the word "Republican" is not beside theirs on the ballot, then that's good enough for me.

I, like the majority of Americans, have been pummeled senseless for 8 long years. That's why I will join millions of citizens and stagger into the voting booth come November, like a boxer in the 12th round, all bloodied and bruised with one eye swollen shut, looking for the only thing that matters — that big "D" on the ballot.

Don't get me wrong. I lost my rose-colored glasses a long time ago.

It's foolish to see the Democrats as anything but a nicer version of a party that exists to do the bidding of the corporate elite in this country. Any endorsement of a Democrat must be done with this acknowledgement and a hope that one day we will have a party that'll represent the people first, and laws that allow that party an equal voice.

Finally, I want to say a word about the basic decency I have seen in Mr. Obama. Mrs. Clinton continues to throw the Rev. Wright up in his face as part of her mission to keep stoking the fears of White America. Every time she does this I shout at the TV, "Say it, Obama! Say that when she and her husband were having marital difficulties regarding Monica Lewinsky, who did she and Bill bring to the White House for 'spiritual counseling?' THE REVEREND JEREMIAH WRIGHT!"

But no, Obama won't throw that at her. It wouldn't be right. It wouldn't be decent. She's been through enough hurt. And so he remains silent and takes the mud she throws in his face.

That's why the crowds who come to see him are so large. That's why he'll take us down a more decent path. That's why I would vote for him if Michigan were allowed to have an election.

But the question I keep hearing is... 'can he win? Can he win in November?' In the distance we hear the siren of the death train called the Straight Talk Express. We know it's possible to hear the words "President McCain" on January 20th. We know there are still many Americans who will never vote for a black man. Hillary knows it, too. She's counting on it.

Pennsylvania, the state that gave birth to this great country, has a chance to set things right. It has not had a moment to shine like this since 1787 when our Constitution was written there. In that Constitution, they wrote that a black man or woman was only "three fifths" human. On Tuesday, the good people of Pennsylvania have a chance for redemption.

Yours,
Michael Moore
MichaelMoore.com
MMFlint@aol.com

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Financial Times backs Barack Obama (2008-04-21 07:55)

The international business daily, the Financial Times, London's version of the Wall Street Journal, has endorsed Barack Obama.



Democrats must choose Obama

Barack Obama goes into Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary as strong favourite, whatever happens, to secure the Democratic presidential nomination. Yet the vote could still go either way.

This is a sign of how close this race has been and how deeply it has divided the party.

Mr Obama and Hillary Clinton are both strong candidates and each appeals powerfully to distinct segments of Democratic support. This has heightened the risk of bitter division.

After Tuesday's vote, the Democrats should move quickly to affirm Mr Obama's nomination. That is not just because his lead in elected delegates is already unassailable and the contest should be brought to a swift conclusion. It is also because he is, in fact, the better candidate.

The contenders' differences on policy look small and in reality are even smaller. Their disagreement on healthcare mandates, for instance, frequently emphasised by Mrs Clinton, is of little practical significance. A mandate to obtain insurance, as proposed by Mrs Clinton, does not achieve universal coverage unless enforced with punitive sanctions, which she does not advocate.

Forum: FT backs Obama



Have your say: Should Hillary Clinton stand aside?

Both candidates, in effect, are proposing near-universal coverage. The virtues of their schemes (much improved access, no denial of insurance to those with pre-existing conditions) as well as the defects (weak control of costs) are much the same.

In almost every area of policy, whether their thinking is good (as with improved support for displaced workers), bad (their opposition to liberal trade) or too vague to say (Iraq), there is little to choose between them.

As voters understood all along, this has therefore been a contest of character, temperament and (sadly but inevitably) identity. Mr Obama's most loyal supporters, once they were persuaded that he might actually succeed, have been black. Mrs Clinton's, certain at the start she would win, are women.

Mr Obama has fought a brilliant campaign, out-organising his opponent, raising more money, and convincing undecided Democrats as well as the country at large that he was more likeable, more straightforward and more worthy of trust.

On form, he is a spell-binding orator and holds arena-sized audiences in thrall. He is given to airy exhortations, it is true, but genuinely seeks consensus and has cross-party appeal.

Mrs Clinton's campaign, in contrast, has been a shambles. She and her team expected to have it all sewn up long ago; they made no plans for a long struggle, ran short of money and had to reorganise on the run.

Her speaking style is pedestrian, when it is not actually grating. Those who dislike her tend to do so with a passion: her disapproval ratings started high and after months of campaigning are climbing still. It is a tribute to her tenacity and to the loyalty she commands in the party that her fate was not sealed weeks ago.

How much the way that a campaign is run tells you about a candidate's fitness to be president is debatable – but it does tell you something, especially if the candidate with the misfiring strategy is running on a claim of management expertise.

In fact, the campaigns have underlined the contenders' respective strengths and weaknesses.

Mr Obama's consistent and relaxed demeanour attested to his coolness (in both senses, his swooning young admirers would add); it seemed to affirm his authenticity. In contrast, Mrs Clinton's hyperactive advisers dressed her in a new personality each day, sometimes several in the course of an interview. They wheeled out Bill Clinton, to remind people of the 1990s, then reeled him back, to help them forget.

Too many course corrections, not enough course.

Mr Obama has had some travails – over his association with Jeremiah Wright, the ranting demagogue pastor, and most recently over condescending remarks about small-town Democratic politics.

In the first case, he responded with a masterly speech about race that may even have improved his standing. In the second, he was evasive and unconvincing – yet the public seems to have given him the benefit of the doubt.

The US has the urge to be inspired a little. Electing the country's first woman president ought to be very inspiring. But not this woman – with her dynastic baggage and knack for antagonising the undecided – running against this man.

The Democratic party has waited an awfully long time for a politician like Barack Obama. Enough already.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Saleem on volunteering for Barack Obama (2008-04-21 10:34)

Listen to Saleem speak of the satisfaction he has experienced volunteering for Barack Obama .
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-04-21 10:34)

Listen to Saleem speak of the satisfaction he has experienced volunteering for Barack Obama.

Jimmy Carter: World hearts Barack Obama (2008-04-21 13:52)

Former President Jimmy Carter again came very close to endorsing Sen. Barack Obama without doing so officially.

Jimmy Carter: Support for Obama strong worldwide

JERUSALEM: Globetrotting former U.S. President Jimmy Carter says he's found strong support for Barack Obama during his recent trips to Africa and Asia.

Carter has stopped short of formally endorsing Obama as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee and would not be drawn on the issue in a meeting with reporters Monday.

However, Carter noted that his children, grandchildren and their spouses back the Illinois senator who is competing with New York Sen. Hillary Clinton for the nomination.

Carter says Obama was the favorite in his travels to Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal. He says "world opinion is strongly supportive of Obama, that's all we hear."

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama Response to Clinton Fear Ad (2008-04-21 15:02)

The Obama campaign released a new television ad today to counter Hillary Clinton's fear ad. Here is what campaign spokesperson Bill Burton had to say about the Clinton attack.

When Senator Clinton voted with President Bush to authorize the war in Iraq, she made a tragically bad decision that diverted our military from the terrorists who attacked us, and allowed Osama bin Laden to escape and regenerate his terrorist network. It's ironic that she would borrow the President's tactics in her own campaign and invoke bin Laden to score political points. We already have a President who plays the politics of fear, and we don't need another.

And here is the response ad "He has what it takes."

[EMBED]

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Obama in 30 Seconds (2008-04-21 18:30)

MoveOn.org has posted the videos competing in the Obama in 30 Seconds contest. You can browse through the videos at this page, and vote for your favorites:

<http://www.obamain30seconds.org/> Here's an example:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Eric V. Kirk (2008-04-22 22:29:00)
This one's my favorite.

Barack Obama on Earth Day (2008-04-22 08:02)

Read Sen. Barack Obama's statement for Earth Day. Also, read his plan on energy and the environment.

"As America and the world observe Earth Day, the call to save our planet has never been more urgent. In recent years, we've seen the harm that more severe weather events can do. We've seen it in the droughts that have swept the South, the hurricanes that threaten our shores with increasing ferocity, and the rising sea levels that could one day submerge our cities. This is a challenge unlike any the world has ever faced, and America must lead the world to meet it.

"But Earth Day is not just an urgent call to action; it is a reminder that what is now a global effort began as a grassroots movement for change. Nearly forty years ago, our nation was at war, recession loomed on the horizon, and Americans were losing faith in their own government. But in the face of division and despair, young Americans came together around a common purpose. In high schools, and on college campuses, in small towns and big cities, they rose up to demand that Washington help solve our growing environmental crisis and establish Earth Day.

"While our planet is in greater peril now than it was forty years ago, we are now better prepared to protect it. From solar panels to windmills to biofuels, innovators in America and around the world are inventing our way to a clean energy future. But solving our climate crisis requires more than technological breakthroughs. Our leaders in Washington have to put what's right for our planet ahead of what's good for their friends in the energy industry. Executives in the energy industry have to understand that there's nothing inconsistent about acting in a way that's both responsible and profitable. And each of us has to do more in our own lives to use energy more efficiently.

"We have a choice in this country. We can continue with an energy policy that makes no sense, and serves the interests of the big oil and gas companies at great cost to our planet. Or we can choose a different future – a future where America is energy independent, and no longer funding both sides in the war on terror; a future where we're leading rather than undermining the global effort to combat climate change; and investing in green energy technology, and creating the jobs of the future. That is the future I believe in, and that is the America I'm running for President to lead.

"On this Earth Day, let's recapture in Washington, on Wall Street, and all across this country the spirit of unity and urgency that led those students to found Earth Day all those years ago. And if we can do that, then I truly believe we won't just be freeing ourselves from the tyranny of oil, or saving this planet for our children, we'll be fulfilling our obligation to be good stewards of God's creation."

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Al-Qaeda in the House (2008-04-22 10:44)

With Pennsylvanians voting now for their Democratic nominee, I was struck by al-Qaeda no. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri's second taped message this month, and this one just the day before the primary. In fact, it was Tuesday in Pakistan and Afghanistan when this was posted.

I was reminded of the theory that Osama bin-Ladin's release of a message just before the last presidential election was a calculated al-Qaeda effort to help George W. Bush get elected. The logic is that al-Qaeda's recruiting, fundraising and propaganda efforts are strengthened by a belligerent U.S. policy in the Muslim world. Now this was just a theory and no solid evidence that I know of backs it up.

However, the timing of these two recent tapes is uncanny.

Again, the logic here would be that al-Qaeda would support '100-year war' John McCain for the presidency. So we can then ask, why would they release two tapes just weeks apart, one of them the day before the Democratic primary? It may be that they see Barack Obama as more likely to beat McCain than Hillary Clinton.

Hillary would probably benefit more from fear tactics than Barack Obama. In fact, her most recent television ad is a fear ad that actually flashes an image of Osama bin-Ladin.

Now again, there is no solid evidence for these musings, but you certainly have to wonder.





Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama in Pittsburgh last night (2008-04-22 13:42)

Sen. Barack Obama gave another great talk in Pittsburgh last night. He was joined by Michelle, Sen. Bob Casey and Teresa Heinz-Kerry.

[EMBED]

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TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND
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HELP GET OUT
THE VOTE

JOIN US

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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One of the Outcomes of Tonight’s Results (2008-04-22 19:44)

Here’s an interesting video from MSNBC’s Chuck Todd showing why, despite Hillary Clinton’s victory tonight, it is now nearly impossible for Clinton to win the pledged delegate race.

Her only argument now is that she is able to win the "big states." However, she really can not suggest that Barack can not win these states in the general election.

Only a few of these big states are considered "swing" states that will not go to the nominated Democrat. Her main advantage is coming from traditional Democrats.

Now obviously these traditional Democrats are more dependable votes for the Democratic nominee than a lot of the independent and young voters attracted to Barack Obama. So I think there is a probability of a greater net loss of votes for the Democratic nominee if Obama is not the candidate.

[EMBED]

The Pennsylvania supporters of Obama did a great job in narrowing Hillary’s lead and making this a close race.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Impact on Superdelegates (2008-04-22 20:25)

It will be interesting to see how tonight’s results will influence the remaining uncommitted superdelegates.

A lot rides on the final pledged delegate count as the whole primary election is based on the delegate count. Traditionally the pledged delegates decide the nominee.

Democrats are risking a lot beyond just this presidential election if the superdelegates go against the pledged delegate count.

Right now it looks like Clinton might net about 10-16 delegates from Pennsylvania, so again she is still too far behind to catch up barring some new revelation that undermines the Obama campaign.

I get the feeling that a lot of superdelegates are still vetting Obama wondering if has anything lurking back there in the background. After 14 months of campaigning, one has to wonder if they’ll dig up anything before the last contest in June. At some point they will have to figure out whether they are going to trust Barack or not.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack: What this means (2008-04-22 21:17)

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this message tonight.

Friend –

Votes are still being counted in Pennsylvania, but one thing is already clear.

In a state where we trailed by more than 25 points just a couple weeks ago, you helped close the gap to a slimmer margin than most thought possible.

Thanks to your support, with just 9 contests remaining, we've won more delegates, more votes, and twice as many contests.

We hold a commanding position, but there are two crucial contests coming up – voters will head to the polls in North Carolina and Indiana in exactly two weeks. And we're already building our organization in the other remaining states.

But it's clear the attacks are going to continue, and we're going to continue fighting a two-front battle against John McCain and Hillary Clinton.

I need your support right now. Please make a donation of \$25:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/whatthismeans>

Thank you for all that you're doing to change our country.

Barack

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New Obama Endorsements (2008-04-23 06:54)

There are some major endorsements to report. Yesterday, 29 North Carolina legislators announced their support of Sen. Barack Obama .

North Carolina and Indiana hold their contests two weeks from now.

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry, a superdelegate, announced his endorsement of Obama today.



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Governor Brad Henry is endorsing Illinois Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In a statement released by the Obama press office in Chicago, Henry called Obama an inspirational leader who can unite the country. He says the senator will be able to move beyond the divisiveness and partisanship that has characterized Washington politics.

The endorsement gives Obama the official support of 3 of Oklahoma's 10 superdelegates, while Hillary Rodham Clinton has the backing of 1 superdelegate. The rest are uncommitted.

Henry – a moderate Democrat in a Republican-trending state – says his own efforts to build a consensus across party lines is why he's so enthusiastic about Obama's candidacy.

Democrats still have a majority of registered voters in Oklahoma, but the state has voted Republican in every presidential election since 1964.

North Carolina legislators endorsing Obama include:

Tony Rand, Senate Majority Leader, Cumberland
Doug Berger, State Senator, Franklin
Charlie Dannelly, State Senator, Mecklenburg
Katie Dorsett, State Senator, Guilford
Anthony Foriest, State Senator, Alamance
Linda Garrou, State Senator, Forsyth
Malcolm Graham, State Senator, Mecklenburg
Clark Jenkins, State Senator, Edgecombe
Edward Jones, State Senator, Halifax, Perquimans
Eleanor Kinnaird, State Senator, Orange
Vernon Malone, State Senator, Wake
Floyd McKissick, State Senator, Durham
Dan Blue, State Representative, Wake
Alma Adams, State Representative, Guilford
Angela Bryant, State Representative, Nash
Jean Farmer-Butterfield, State Representative, Wilson
Becky Carney, State Representative, Mecklenburg
Bill Faison, State Representative, Orange
Richard Glazier, State Representative, Cumberland
Larry Hall, State Representative, Durham
Ty Harrell, State Representative, Wake
Pricey Harrison, State Representative, Guilford
Sandra Hughes, State Representative, New Hanover
Marvin Lucas, State Representative, Cumberland
Grier Martin, State Representative, Wake
Annie Mobley, State Representative, Bertie
Henry Michaux, Jr., State Representative, Durham
Edith Warren, State Representative, Pitt
Michael Wray, State Representative, Warren

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Available Superdelegates (2008-04-23 07:26)

Here is a list of superdelegates who have not endorsed a candidate yet taken from Democratic Convention Watch today. Some have links to contact information.

Certain superdelegates can be found at social networking sites like LinkedIn and Facebook.

Superdelegates highlighted in red are from Michigan or Florida and do not count toward the nomination at this time.

Superdelegates highlighted in green have committed to voting for the delegate leader at the end of the primaries.

Representatives

Bud Cramer (AL)
Harry Mitchell (AZ)
Gabrielle Giffords (AZ)

Nancy Pelosi (CA) Jerry McNerney (CA)
Pete Stark (CA)
Mike Honda (CA)
Sam Farr (CA)
Jim Costa (CA)
Lois Capps (CA)
Howard Berman (CA)
Henry Waxman (CA)
Bob Filner (CA)
Susan Davis (CA)
Mark Udall (CO)
John Salazar (CO)
Joe Courtney (CT)

Allen Boyd (FL)
Tim Mahoney (FL)
Ron Klein (FL) Jim Marshall (GA)
Mazie Hirono (HI)
Rahm Emanuel (IL)
Peter Visclosky (IN)
Joe Donnelly (IN)
Brad Ellsworth (IN)
Baron Hill (IN)

Rep. Bruce Braley (IA)
Nancy Boyda (KS)
Dennis Moore (KS)
Ben Chandler (KY)
William Jefferson (LA)

Charlie Melancon (LA)
Tom Allen (ME)

Rep. Michael Michaud (ME)

John Sarbanes (MD)
Steny Hoyer (MD)
Chris Van Hollen (MD)
John Olver (MA)
Niki Tsongas (MA)
John Tierney (MA)
Edward Markey (MA)
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI)

Rep. Bart Stupak

(MI)

Collin Peterson (MN)

Gene Taylor (MS)
Ike Skelton (MO)
Rep. Rush Holt (NJ)

Rep. Bob Etheridge
(NC)

Rep. Mike McIntyre
(NC)

Rep. Brad Miller
(NC)

Rep. Heath Shuler
(NC)

Rep. Tom Udall (NM)
Charlie Wilson (OH)
Marcia Kaptur (OH)

Rep. Zack Space (OH)
Rep. Dennis Kucinich (OH)
Rep. Dan Boren (OK)
David Wu (OR)
Peter DeFazio (OR)
Bob Brady (PA)
Jason Altmire (PA)
Chris Carney (PA)
Tim Holden (PA)
Rep. Mike Doyle (PA)
John Spratt (SC)

Rep. Jim Clyburn (SC)

Lincoln Davis (TN)

Bart Gordon (TN)

John Tanner (TN)

Nick Lampson (TX)

Ciro Rodriguez (TX)

Jim Matheson (UT)

Rick Larsen (WA)

Jim McDermott (WA)

Alan Mollohan (WV)

Madeleine Bordallo (Guam)

Presidents & VPs

Jimmy Carter (GA)

Al Gore (TN)

Senators

Ken Salazar (CO)

Joe Biden (DE)

Tom Carper (DE)

Daniel Akaka (HI)

Tom Harkin (IA)

Mary Landrieu (LA)

Ben Cardin (MD)

Carl Levin (MI) Max Baucus (MT)

Jon Tester (MT)

Harry Reid (NV)

Jeff Bingaman (NM)

Frank Lautenberg (NJ)

Sherrod Brown (OH)

Ron Wyden (OR)

Jack Reed (RI)

Jim Webb (VA)

Robert Byrd (WV)

Herb Kohl (WI)

Fmr. Senator George Mitchell (NY)

Governors

Bill Ritter (CO)

Steve Beshear (KY)

Brian Schweitzer (MT)
John Lynch (NH)
Mike Easley (NC)
Phil Bredeson (TN)
Joe Manchin (WV)

Add-Ons

Alex Sink (FL) #
Steve Geller (FL) #
Dan Gelber (FL) # Jay Nixon (MO) #
Vicky Harwell (TN) #
Jerry Lee (TN) #
67 Unnamed Add-Ons,
including 2 from Michigan

DNC Members

Joe Turnham (AL)
Nancy Worley (AL)

Blake Johnson (AK)
Cindy Spanyers (AK)
Don Bivens (AZ)
Vacant (AZ)
Lottie Shackelford (AR)
Art Torres (CA)
Edward Espinoza
(CA)
Inola Henry
(CA)
Hon. Carole Migden
(CA)
Bob Mulholland
(CA)
Christine Pelosi
(CA)
Robert Rankin
(CA)
Keith Umemoto
(CA)
Steve Ybarra
(CA)
John Perez

(CA)

Vernon Watkins (CA)

Crystal Strait (CA)

Pat Waak (CO)

Roy Romer (CO)

Nancy DiNardo (CT)

John Olsen (CT)

Christine Marques (DA) *

Theresa Morelli (DA) *

Anita Bonds (DC)

Donna Brazile (DC)

Larry Cohen (DC)

Christine Warnke (DC)

John Daniello (DE)

Harriet Smith-Windsor (DE)

Karen Thurman (FL)

Rudolph Parker (FL) Terrie Brady

(FL)

Mitchell Ceasar

(FL)

Diane Glasser

(FL)

Janee Murphy

(FL)

Jon Ausman (FL)

Andrew Tobias (FL)

Richard Ray (GA)

Antonio Charfauros (GU)

Cecilia Mafnas (GU)

Hon. Robert Underwood (GU)

Chair - Vacant (HA)

Vice-Chair - Vacant (HA)

Dr. Marie Dolly Strazar (HA)

Keith Roark (ID)

Edward Smith (IL)

Vacant (IL)

Scott Brennan (IA)

Richard Machacek (IA)

Larry Gates (KS)

Helen Knetzer (KS)

Jennifer Moore (KY)
Nathan Smith (KY)
Chris Whittington (LA)
Claude "Buddy" Leach (LA)
Elsie Burkhalter (LA)
Sam Spencer (ME)
Jennifer DeChant (ME)
Michael Cryor (MD)
Lauren Glover (MD)
Hon. Heather Mizeur (MD)
Hon. Gregory Pecoraro (MD)
Susan Turnbull (MD)
John Sweeney (MD)
Belkis Leong-Hong (MD)
John Gage (MD)
Debra Kozikowski (MA)
Paul Kirk (MA)
James Roosevelt Jr (MA)
Arthenia Abbott (MI)
Elizabeth Bunn
(MI)
Debbie Dingell
(MI)
Hon. Robert Ficano
(MI)
Joyce Lalonde
(MI)
Jeffrey Radjewski
(MI)
Michael Tardiff
(MI)
Richard Wiener
(MI)
Mark Brewer (MI)
Lu Battaglieri (MI)
Hon. Kwame Kilpatrick (MI)

Mayor Brenda Lawrence (MI) Eric Coleman (MI)
Virgie Rollins (MI)
Lauren Wolfe (MI)
Richard Shoemaker (MI)
DNC Members (cont'd)

Wayne Dowdy (MS)
Carnelia Pettis Fondren (MS)

John Temporiti (MO)
Yolanda Wheat (MO)
Leila Medley (MO)
Hon. Robin Carnahan (MO)
Hon. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (MO)
Dennis McDonald (MT)
Margarett Campbell (MT)
Audra Ostergard (NE)
Sam Lieberman (NV)

Hon. Yvonne Gates (NV)

Hon. Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)
Philip D. Murphy (NJ)
Raymond Buckley (NH)
Brian Colon (NM)
Hon. Herman Farrell Jr. (NY)
Irene Stein (NY)
Ralph Dawson (NY)
Jerry Meek (NC)

Dr. Jeanette Council (NC)
David Parker (NC)

Muriel Offerman (NC)

Carol Peterson (NC)
David Strauss (ND)
Hon. Chris Redfern (OH)
Ronald Malone (OH)
Patricia Moss (OH)

Hon. Joyce Beatty (OH)
Ivan Holmes (OK)
Jim Frasier (OK)

Kalyn Free (OK)

Jay Parmley (OK)

Mike Morgan (OK)

Meredith Woods-Smith (OR)

Frank Dixon (OR)

Jenny Greenleaf (OR)

Wayne Kinney (OR)

Gail Rasmussen (OR)

Hon. Bill Bradbury (OR)

William George (PA)

Luisette Cabana (PR)

Eliseo Roques-Arroyo (PR)

Wilbur Lee Jeffcoat (SC)

Hon. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (SC)

Cheryl Chapman (SD)

Gray Sasser (TN)

Dr. Inez Crutchfield (TN)

Boyd Richie (TX)

Jaime Gonzalez Jr. (TX)

David Hardt (TX)

Denise Johnson (TX)

John Patrick (TX)

Betty Richie (TX)

Linda Chavez -Thompson (TX)

Robert Martinez (TX)

Bob Strauss (TX)

Helen Langan (UT)

Jim Leaman (VA)

C Richard Cranwell (VA)

Hon. Alexis Herman (VA)

Joe Johnson (VA)

Jerome Wiley Segovia (VA)

Howard Dean (VT)
Dwight Pelz (WA)
Eileen Macoll (WA)
Ed Cote (WA)
Sharon Mast (WA)
David McDonald (WA)

Nick Casey Jr. (WV)

Alice Germond (WV)
Lena Taylor (WI)
Paula Zellner (WI)

Awais Khaleel (WI)
Nancy Drummond (WY)
Cynthia Nunley (WY)

Marylyn Stapleton (VI)
Carol Burke (VI)

Vacant - 1 (At-large)
Vacant - 2
(At-large)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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50 Former Edwards Supporters endorse Barack Obama (2008-04-23 10:00)

More good news as a host of former John Edwards supporters have rallied to back Barack Obama. Among the new endorsements is Edwards former National General Chairman Ed Turlington. So far, Edwards himself as not endorsed either candidate.

Former Edwards National General Chairman and 49 Other Edwards Supporters Throw Support to Barack Obama

by Zachary Scott Edwards

, Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 09:29 AM



Edwards backers call North Carolina primary clear choice between real change and more of the same

Raleigh, NC – The Obama campaign today announced the endorsement of 49 prominent supporters of John Edwards - including Ed Turlington, Edwards' former National General Chairman. These North Carolina leaders - ranging from Members of Congress to a former Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court to former law partners and longtime friends of John Edwards - cite Barack Obama's commitment to fighting for change on behalf of working Americans and taking on the special interests in Washington.

"Barack Obama and John Edwards share a commitment to taking on special interests and standing up for regular Americans. Along with Edwards supporters from across the state, I am honored to join Senator Obama's movement for change," said Turlington. "As president, he will bring together Democrats, Republicans and Independents behind an agenda of change. From ending the war in Iraq to confronting the scourge of poverty to making health care affordable for every single American, Barack Obama will bring our country the change we need."

The diverse group said they are voting for Obama because he is the only candidate with a proven ability to unite America around a common vision and win the votes of Republicans and Independents whose support is critical to carrying the state in the fall.

Like Edwards, Obama refused donations from PACs and Washington lobbyists and vowed to stand up to the special interests that have blocked so much progress for working Americans in Washington, DC.

"John Edwards has dedicated his life and career to fighting poverty in America. Barack Obama demonstrated that same commitment when he turned down a high-paying job on Wall Street to work in Chicago communities decimated by steel mill closings," said Louise Coggins, a social worker from Wilmington who has known John and Elizabeth Edwards for 30 years. "Senator Obama is now the only candidate in the race who doesn't take money from PACs and federal lobbyists. We can count on him to stand up to special interests in Washington, DC on behalf of working men and women in America."

We need everyone in North Carolina getting involved right away, by volunteering at their local office. If you are not in North Carolina, we need you to start calling here using the MyBO call tool, or take a trip here to make the biggest impact on the ground. Join Us!

[Click here](#) to see the full list of local leaders who had previously backed John Edwards' campaign for president, but today are throwing their support behind Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



North Carolina GOP to run anti-Obama Ad (2008-04-23 11:11)

The North Carolina Republican Party, apparently at the urging of Sen. John McCain, will begin running television ads attacking Sen. Barack Obama.

The ads will attack specifically Obama's former pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright and thus the Illinois senator through association.

I guess this indicates who the GOP thinks will win, or does not want to win for their own sakes.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Clinton's "Big State" Strategy (2008-04-23 13:40)

Hillary Clinton's emphasis on "big states" carries on the 'Fortress Democratic' strategy of her husband. The plan basically is to hunker down in strongly Democratic states, treat certain states with Democratic majorities as "swing" states and all but abandon the "red states" with Republican majorities.

The big problem with this defensive posture is that basically Democrats are continually placed on the defensive allowing those red states to become even redder.

Although the strategy worked in the short term for Bill Clinton, things began to unravel even during his tenure when the Republicans took over Congress. Then we had many years of Republicans controlling not only the White House and Congress, but the vast majority of governorships throughout the country.

When you don't compete, when you don't have candidates to rally behind in any state, you can not expect anything positive to happen. People are not going to get motivated registering Democrats between elections. They get fired up and ready to go when they have a candidate that they believe in.

Now, when Howard Dean took over the Democratic Party apparatus, he instituted a proactive policy in all states. Centralized resources would be dispersed to good candidates even in red states. That set up a situation where we now see Democratic governors and senators in what are still considered red states e.g., Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Sen. Ben Nelson in Nebraska.

The Obama campaign is redrawing this red state, blue state map by activating and organizing people in all states for

the general election.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Plouffe: The Facts (2008-04-23 18:12)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out this email today.

Last night, Senator Clinton used up her last, best chance to cut appreciably into Barack Obama's elected delegate lead.

She came up short.

In fact, she barely made a dent. At most, she picked up a net gain of 12 delegates – less than our gain, for example, in Colorado (where we gained 17) or Kansas (where we gained 14). Her gain in Pennsylvania was less than half of our gain in Virginia, where we added to our lead by 25 delegates.

But there is one measure by which her campaign's gains are real.

The Clinton campaign claims they've raised \$3.5 million dollars since the polls closed yesterday.

We can't afford to let that go unanswered.

Please make a donation of \$25 today to support this campaign:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/thefacts>

Grassroots support from people like you has the Democratic nomination in our sights.

Here's how it breaks out:

After Pennsylvania, we have a lead of at least 159 elected delegates earned through all of the primaries and caucuses so far. We have a total of at least 1493 pledged delegates.

Meanwhile, we've been rapidly gaining ground among the so-called superdelegates (elected leaders and party officials who get a vote to choose our nominee), cutting Senator Clinton's lead from more than 100 early this year to less than 25. We have a total of 238 publicly committed superdelegates.

The total number of delegates needed to secure the nomination is 2,024. That means we are only 293 delegates away from securing the nomination. In less than two weeks, we'll square off in the key battleground states of North Carolina and Indiana, when there will be as many delegates at stake as there were last night in Pennsylvania.

To grow our significant lead and close out this race, we must remain competitive in these contests and the 7 others that will follow.

Barack needs your support right now to finish this contest:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/thefacts>

Pennsylvania was considered a state tailor-made for Senator Clinton – she was always expected to win, and we trailed by as much as 25 points in the weeks leading up to the election.

But thanks to people like you, Barack gained support among key voters in the face of long odds and unrelenting negativity from Senator Clinton, and kept the margin close enough that her delegate gain was insignificant.

Indeed, the only surprising result from Pennsylvania is how much Barack was able to improve his standing among key voter groups since the Ohio primary.

Among white voters, Obama narrowed the gap by 6 points. Among voters over 60, he nearly cut the gap in half, from 41 points to 24 points. Meanwhile, we continued to run strong where we have all along – for example, winning voters ages 18-24 with over 65 % of the vote.

Barack campaigned hard in Pennsylvania. He talked about his plans to stand up to the special interests and bring people together so that we can change Washington to turn our economy around, make sure that every American has quality health care, and bring this misguided war to an end.

Your donation of \$25 can make sure we grow our lead and finish this race in the final 9 contests:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/thefacts>

Thank you,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Sonya (2008-04-24 05:58:00)

Please lets get the word out that voters for Obama will be in Denver during the convention if the nomination is not given to the candidtae with the most elected delegates, most votes, most states.

(2008-04-24 07:41)

Here is a video of a group meeting between Barack Obama and residents of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania with a lot of in-depth discussion on the issues. It's about an hour long.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Oregon Latino Coalition endorses Barack Obama (2008-04-24 07:54)

A coalition of Oregon Latino group led by the state's largest farmworker union announced its endorsement of Barack Obama.

Latinos make up about eight percent of Oregon's population and tend to vote Democrat. Oregon votes on May 20 and April 29 is the last day to register before the presidential primary.

Coalition of Oregon Latino groups endorse Barack Obama for president

April 23, 2008

Key Latino groups in Oregon today announced their endorsement of Sen. Barack Obama for president. Ramon Ramirez, the president of PCUN, the state's largest farmworker union, made the announcement. Ramirez and the groups cite the Illinois senator's commitment to improving the lives of farmworkers and Latino families in Oregon and across the nation as the reason they chose to endorse him.

— Thelma Guerrero-Huston

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Endorsements pour in for Barack Obama (2008-04-24 14:26)

Sen. Barack Obama received a flurry of endorsements today. From Oregon, Congressman David Wu announced his support for Obama today.

"I think we are blessed to have two strong candidates for president," Congressman David Wu said. "I am endorsing Barack Obama for president today because I believe that he is best suited to turn the page on this sorry episode in American history. He and I both had the judgment to oppose the Iraq War from the very beginning.

"Every dollar that we have spent in Iraq—which adds up to over \$500 billion so far—is a dollar not spent at home, a school not built, a bridge not repaired," continued Wu. "We need new policies both at home and abroad. Like Americans, the international community wants to see real change in America and I believe that Senator Obama embodies that change."

The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), an AFL-CIO affiliated labor union also endorsed Obama.

While IFPTE applauds both Democratic candidates, our union's internal polling results, coupled with Senator Obama's unblemished record of support for the critical issues facing IFPTE, prompted our action to endorse Senator Obama.

IFPTE's Executive Council agreed that Senator Obama is the candidate best suited to address the major concerns of America's working men and women, particularly those issues that directly impact IFPTE's diverse membership. The Senator believes we need to reform the H-1B program; he will immediately reverse the last eight years of the union busting promulgated on our nation's Civil Servants; will stand

against free trade agreements like NAFTA that fail to protect American workers; will address our nation's dangerous health care crisis; will work to oppose irresponsible privatization schemes in the public and federal sectors; will work to protect the pensions and retirement security of working Americans; and will not only support the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), but will actively use the bully pulpit of the Presidency to work with Congress in ensuring that this all important labor law reform legislation becomes the law. The IFPTE is pleased to join the millions of Senator Obama supporters and look forward to working with him over the next seven months as we move toward victory in November.

From North Carolina, 43 mayors announced today that they are backing Sen. Obama.

FULL LIST OF MAYORS ENDORSING SENATOR OBAMA

Terry Bellamy, Mayor, Asheville
Leni Sinick, Former Mayor, Asheville
Linda Blackburn, Mayor, Ahoskie
Frank Wilson, Mayor, Bolton
Loretta Clawson, Mayor, Boone
Kevin Foy, Mayor, Chapel Hill
Mark Chilton, Mayor, Carrboro
Harold Weinbrecht, Mayor, Cary
Harvey Gantt, Former Mayor, Charlotte
Linda Ingram, Mayor, Conetoe
Darryl Moss, Mayor, Creedmoor
Malcolm Johnson, Mayor, Dover
N. Carnell Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem, Dunn
William Bell, Mayor, Durham
Cora McFadden, Mayor Pro Tem, Durham
Perry Blanks, Mayor, East Arcadia
Warnie Bishop, Mayor, Enfield
Roy Bell, Mayor, Garysburg
Yvonne Johnson, Mayor, Greensboro
Keith Holiday, Former Mayor, Greensboro
Mildred Council, Mayor Pro Tem, Greenville
Horace Reid, Mayor Pro Tem, Hertford
Matthew Block, Mayor, Laurinburg
Phil Bazemore, Mayor Pro Tem, Monroe
Eulis Willis, Mayor, Navassa
Lewis Brown, Former Mayor, Navassa
Jerry Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem, Navassa
James Knox, Mayor, Northwest
Randolph Voller, Mayor, Pittsboro
Charles Meeker, Mayor, Raleigh
James West, former Mayor Pro Tem, Raleigh
Estelle Sanders, Mayor, Roper
Perry Dixon, Mayor, Sandyfield
James Mill Sr., Mayor, Scotland Neck
Melvin Broadnax, Mayor, Seaboard
Howard Morgan, Mayor, Sedalia
Wilbert Harrison, Mayor, Speed
Ethel Clark, Mayor, Spring Lake

Donald Davis, Mayor, Snow Hill
Betty Gholston, Mayor, Wagram
George Draper Jr., Mayor, Weldon
Robert Spivey, Mayor, Windsor
Vivian Burke, Mayor Pro Tem, Winston-Salem
Carl Lee Sr., Mayor, Lewiston Woodville



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack Obama on his Support for Equal Pay (2008-04-24 14:33)

From barackobama.com :

Video: Obama on his Support for Equal Pay

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 07:39 AM

Here's video from Obama's visit to New Albany, Indiana, where he addressed discrimination in the work place and his support for pay equality...

[EMBED]

Later that day, Obama voted for a bill that would make it easier for women who allege pay discrimination to sue their employers. The Washington Post writes...

At issue is the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of Lilly Ledbetter, who for 19 years was the lone female supervisor at an Alabama tire plant. Months before she retired in 1998, Ledbetter learned that she was being paid thousands of dollars less than her male co-workers. She filed suit and was awarded more than \$3 million by a jury. Last May, the Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 that Ledbetter had waited too long to file her case. The court said she should have complained within 180 days of a specific discriminatory event.

The ruling stunned civil rights advocates, who said federal courts in nine of the nation's 12 circuits had for decades judged that the 180-day statute of limitations began running afresh with each discriminatory paycheck. Their congressional supporters quickly drafted legislation to set that standard into law. Under the bill, the 180-day clock would start ticking when a discriminatory decision is adopted, when a person becomes subject to that decision or when a person is affected by that decision, including with each new paycheck.

Today, Obama was featured on the front page of The Hill in a photo with Lilly Ledbetter...

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Winning Colorado vs. McCain (2008-04-25 09:06)

Here is a nice blog from Christopher Hass at the official barackobama.com site. He explains how Barack Obama's approach can open up the possibility in winning Republican or "red" states.

By going on the offensive you force the Republicans to defend states they formerly considered in their pockets. You also fire up the local Democrats more when you have more states involved. And its better for the whole Democratic ticket and for the long-term future of the party.

The example is how to win the state of Colorado in the general election.

Winning in November: Colorado

by Christopher Hass

, Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 02:01 PM

One of the advantages of this long primary process (fourteen months and counting) has been the opportunity it's provided for us to campaign and organize in all fifty states. In cities and towns across America we've seen record voter registration and participation, with many people finding their way to the political process for the first time. The end result: a radically altered electoral map that gives us the opportunity to compete across the country in November, in swing states and "red states" as well as "blue states."

Once case in point: Colorado.

In 2004, George W. Bush won the state of Colorado by less than 100,000 votes. Last winter, our grassroots supporters in the state spent months organizing, helped out at the end by field staff, multiple offices, and Barack himself. On February 5th Barack won the Colorado caucuses by a overwhelming margin, defeating Hillary Clinton 67 % to 32 %.

Two and a half months later, a recent Rasmussen poll shows that against Hillary Clinton, John McCain would easily carry the state right now, leading 50 % to 36 %. But in a head to head match-up, Barack leads McCain 46 % to 43 %, flipping the state and its nine electoral votes.

It's a pattern that we've seen repeat itself in states like Iowa, Oregon, Minnesota, Washington, Wisconsin and more.

And our grassroots networks that are still at work, still organizing and still contributing, helping lay the groundwork for the general election against John McCain in November.

Visit CO.BarackObama.com to find active grassroots groups and ongoing event in Colorado.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's address to UFCW, new TV ad (2008-04-25 10:06)

Sen. Barack Obama speaks about the economy at an address to the UFCW in Chicago on Apr. 24, 2008.

[EMBED]

In the television ad "Nothing's Changed," airing in West Virginia, Barack talks about the record profits at Exxon and the high gas rates. He promises to institute a windfall profits penalty and to invest \$150 billion in alternative energy creating \$5 million new jobs. He also reminds us that he does not take money from Washington lobbyists.

[EMBED]

Apply now if you want to be an Obama Organizing Fellow.



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Indianapolis: Barack on Energy Policy (2008-04-25 10:37)

Barack Obama delivered remarks today on his energy policy in Indianapolis. Here is the text as prepared for delivery.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama
Press Avail on Energy Plan

Indianapolis, Indiana
Friday, April 25, 2008

Everywhere I go in Indiana, and across this country, I'm talking to folks who are working harder and harder just to get by. At a time when our economy is in turmoil and wages are stagnant, hardworking families are struggling to pay rising costs, and few costs are rising more than the one folks pay at the pump. For the well-off in this country, high gas prices are mostly an annoyance, but to most Americans, they're a huge problem, bordering on a crisis.

Here in Indiana, gas costs about \$3.60 a gallon – and across the country, gas costs more than at any time in almost thirty years. Over the last year alone, the price of oil has shot up more than 80 %, reaching a record high of more than \$110 a barrel – all of which helps explain why the top oil companies made \$123 billion last year.

Now, there's nothing wrong with a company being rewarded for its success. Our economy has always been powered by innovation and ingenuity. But the reason Americans keep going to the pump isn't because oil companies are being particularly innovative. It's because Washington politicians didn't deal with the challenge of alternative energy when they had the chance.

When George Bush asked Dick Cheney to come up with our energy policy a few years ago, he met with the environmental groups once, and he met with the renewable energy folks once, and he met with the oil and gas companies 40 times. And yet, we also know this problem goes deeper than the Bush administration. Because we've been talking about high gas prices in this country since Americans were sitting in gas lines in the 1970s. And we've heard promises about energy independence from every President – Democratic and Republican – since Richard Nixon. And yet the only thing that's different now is that we are even more dependent on foreign oil, our planet is in even greater peril, and the price of gas keeps going up and up and up.

So unless we're willing to challenge the broken system in Washington, and stop letting lobbyists use their clout to get their way, nothing else is going to change. And the reason I'm running for President is to challenge that system. I'm the only candidate in this race who's worked to rein in the power of lobbyists by passing historic ethics reforms in Illinois and in the Senate, and I'm the only one who isn't taking a dime from Washington lobbyists.

We need a President who's looking out for families in Indiana, not just doing what's good for multinational corporations, and that's the kind of President I'll be. It isn't right that oil companies are making record profits at a time when ordinary Americans are going into debt trying to pay rising energy costs. In the paper today, there was an article about how millions of Americans are falling behind on their energy bills, and a record number of Americans could face energy shut-offs over the next two months. That's why we'll put a windfall profits tax on oil companies and use it to help Indiana families pay their heating and cooling bills and reduce energy costs. We'll also take steps to reduce the price of oil and increase transparency in how prices are set so we can ensure that energy companies aren't bending the rules. And to help Indiana families meet the rising cost of gas, we'll put a middle class tax cut in their pockets that will save them \$1,000 a year, and we'll eliminate income taxes altogether for seniors making less than \$50,000.

So these are a few short-term steps we can take to ease the burden that Indiana families are bearing as a result of our failed energy policy. But the truth is, there is no easy answer to our energy crisis – and we need a President who's going to be straight with us about that; a president who's going to tell the American people not just what they want to hear, but what they need to know. And what they need to know is that any real solution isn't going to come about overnight. It's going to take time.

To bring about real change, we're going to have to make long-term investments in clean energy and energy efficiency. That's why I reached across the aisle in the Senate to come up with a plan to double our fuel efficiency standards that won support of lawmakers who had never supported raising those standards before. And that's why I voted for an energy bill that was far from perfect because it was the largest

investment in renewable energy in history, and I fought to eliminate the tax giveaways to oil companies that were slipped into that bill.

And as President, I'll work to solve this energy crisis once and for all. We'll invest \$150 billion over the next ten years in establishing a green energy sector that will create up to 5 million new jobs – and those are jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. We'll invest in clean energies like solar, wind, and biodiesel. And we'll help make sure that the fuel we're using is more efficient.

The candidates with the Washington experience – my opponents – are good people. They mean well. But they've been in Washington for a long time, and even with all that experience they talk about, nothing has happened. This country didn't raise fuel efficiency standards for over thirty years. So what have we got for all that experience? Gas that's approaching \$4 a gallon – because you can fight all you want inside Washington, but until you change the way it works, you won't be able to make the changes Americans need.

In the end, we'll only ease the burden of gas prices on our families when Hoosiers and people all across America say "enough." It's time to free ourselves from the tyranny of oil, and stop funding both sides in the war on terror. It's time to save this planet for our children. The time is now – not after the next election or the one after that. You shouldn't accept any more excuses for why it can't be done. It won't happen tomorrow. But if we can come together in this election, we can and will begin, and the first step is changing the way business is done in Washington. If we can do that, then the energy crisis is one I'm confident we can solve.

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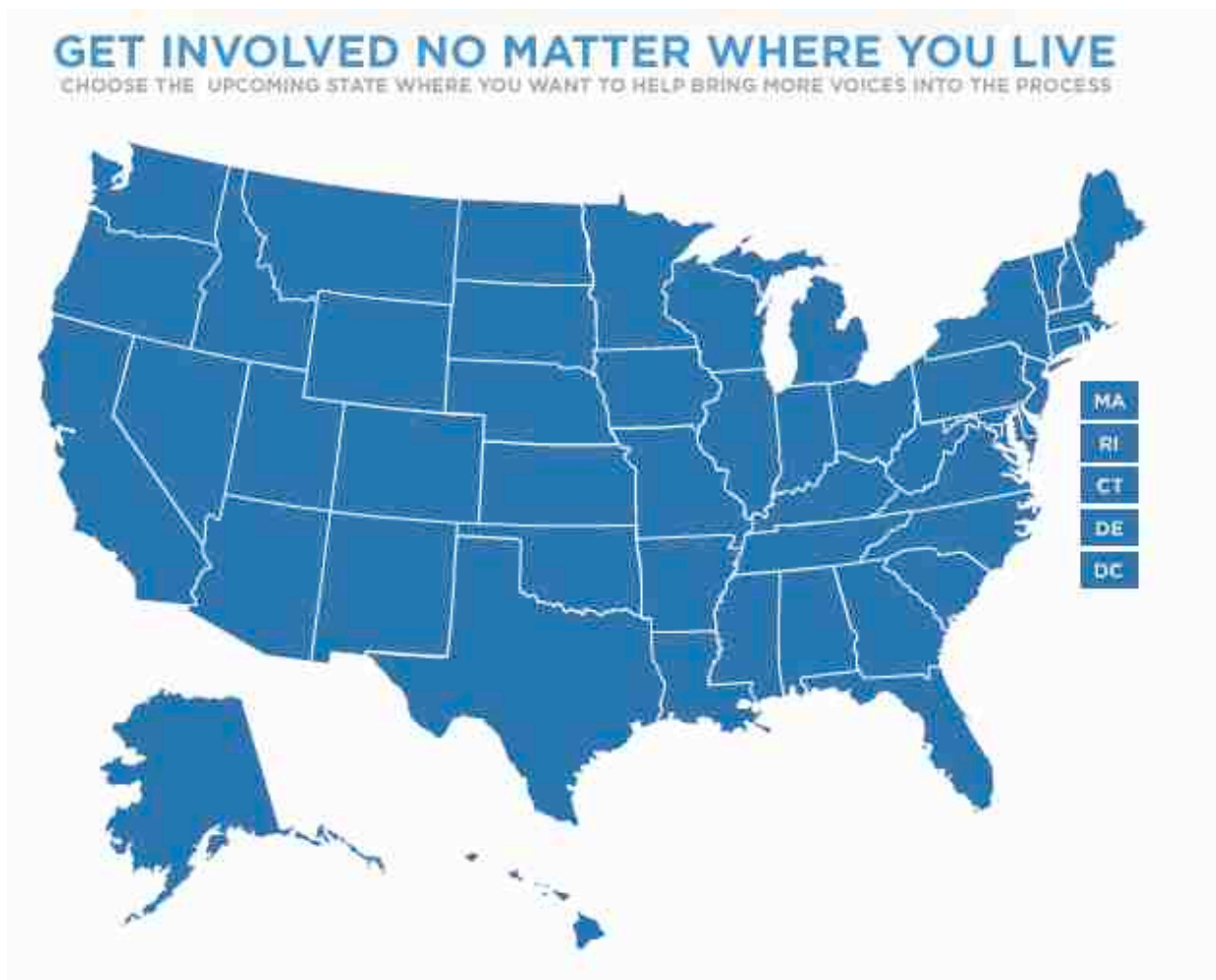
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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama Campaign launches 50 state Registration Drive (2008-04-25 13:12)

The Obama campaign is launching a 50 state voter's registration drive set for May 10, 2008. Supporters are asked to participate by clicking on their state in the map below and signing up for the event.



The Vote for Change drive is aimed at involving thousands of new people in the Democratic process.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Former "Hillraiser" defecting to Obama Camp (2008-04-25 13:31)

According to MSNBC, Hillary Clinton fundraiser and former Chile ambassador Gabriel Guerra-Mondragon is joining Barack Obama's campaign.

Guerra-Mondragon, who had reportedly raised about \$500,000 for the Clinton camp, is said to have been worried about the "tone" of the campaign and how it would impact the November election.

Clinton had been experiencing fundraising problems and was far behind Obama in cash on hand according to the last financial report. She is reported to have gotten a boost from her Philadelphia win though.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Upcoming Obama Appearances (2008-04-25 19:17)

Apr 26 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Marion, IN

Apr 26 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Anderson, IN

Apr 28 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Wilson, NC

Apr 28 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Wilmington, NC

Apr 29 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Hickory, NC

Barack Obama on gas prices in Indianapolis, Apr. 25, 2008

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-04-26 08:44)

[EMBED]

Obama Supporters want decisiveness (2008-04-26 13:18)

Democratic waffling and a failure of the superdelegates to take decisive action on the nomination has some Barack Obama supporters worried.

House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., the highest ranking African-American and third highest Democrat in Congress, warned that continued negative campaigning may hurt the party's chances in November. He is also worried about a protracted struggle.

"If this party is perceived by people as having gone into a back room somewhere and brokered a nominee, that would not be good for our party."

[EMBED]

Barack Obama hears from Bernard Smith about the economy at a townhall meeting in Marion, Indiana today.

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Hoops in Indiana (2008-04-26 13:37)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama plays during a pick-up game at Maple Crest Middle School in Indiana.

[EMBED]

Bryant Gumbel interviewed Barack on the subject of basketball on Real Sports, HBO, "Audacity of Hoops."



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack's interview with the Indianapolis Star (2008-04-27 07:11)

Sen. Barack Obama's closing remarks during an endorsement interview with the Indianapolis Star on Apr. 25, 2008.

[EMBED]

The Obama campaign has set a goal of a million telephone calls by May 6, primary election day in North Carolina and Indiana. Click on the image below to make calls.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Veterans benefits (2008-04-27 11:44)

Barack Obama answers a question from a Navy veteran in Anderson, Indiana on April 26, 2008.

He talks about improving the Veterans Administration including opening up more VA clinics. He also mentions his grandfather who fought in Patton's army and benefited from the GI Bill that allowed him to go to school while supporting a family. He notes that veteran educational benefits today do not cover college costs and that he is working on new GI Bill that will allow veterans to achieve a "world class education" while supporting a family.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



One-Stop Early Voting in North Carolina (2008-04-27 18:21)

North Carolina gives people the opportunity to vote early through One-Stop Early Voting. You can register and vote all at once.

Click here to find a One-Stop Early Voting location and watch Barack's direct appeal to get involved in North Carolina. You can also call the Obama campaign hotline at 1-888-NC-EARLY.

[EMBED]



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Gallup: Obama "cares about the needs of people like you" (2008-04-28 08:57)

A Gallup poll indicates most Americans (62 %) believe that Barack Obama 'cares about their needs' than say the same about Hillary Clinton (57 %) or John McCain (52 %).

Barack also led both Clinton and McCain as the candidate who:

Shares your values (51 %)

Understands the problems Americans face (63 %)

Is someone you would be proud to have as president (55 %)

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Register to Vote in Oregon before Apr. 29 (2008-04-28 10:48)

Oregon voter registration deadline is nearing. From barackobama.com :

Oregon Voter Registration: "There's no time to procrastinate"

by Christopher Hass

, Monday, April 28, 2008 at 10:41 AM

From today's Oregon Statesman Journal:

This year's battle-to-the-finish Democratic presidential primary has encouraged a rush of Oregon voter registrations. That's great.

You can't make your voice heard unless you vote, and you can't vote unless you register. Tuesday — tomorrow — is the deadline to do that for the May 20 primary.

This deadline affects mainly first-time Oregon voters, people who haven't voted in the past five years and registered voters who are changing their political party affiliation. People who have moved within Oregon may have more time, but they should call their county elections office to be sure.

Registration forms are readily available on the Internet, at Driver and Motor Vehicle Services offices and at county courthouses, among other places. But there's no time to procrastinate.

Over the weekend, a number of grassroots supporters helped canvass Oregon neighborhoods to register new voters, and there is still time to help out by calling Oregon residents and encouraging them to register before tomorrow's deadline.

If you live in Oregon, here's what you need to know about tomorrow's deadline and the upcoming primary:

All elections in Oregon are Vote by Mail. Ballots must be received by May 20th. To vote for Barack you must be:

- Registered as a Democrat by April 29th
- At least 18 years old on or before May 20, 2008

- A resident of Oregon

You should re-register if:

- 1) Your residence address or mailing address has changed, because a ballot will be sent to the address where you are registered.
- 2) You are not registered as a Democrat and need to change your political party affiliation.
- 3) You have not voted for five years or more.

For more information, visit the Oregon Secretary of State's website or stop by the Oregon for Obama field office closest to you.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) Endorses Barack Obama (2008-04-28 13:15)

There's been a steady stream of superdelegates endorsing Barack Obama lately. During one interview by Chris Matthews on MSNBC, there was talk about a large number of superdelegates waiting in the wings to endorse the Illinois senator apparently trying to get the most political mileage before announcing their support.

Senator Jeff Bingaman Endorses Barack Obama

by Sam Graham-Felsen,

Monday, April 28, 2008 at 12:10 PM

Chicago, IL – Today, United States Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) endorsed Barack Obama for president, citing his ability to rise above the issues that divide us, end the war in Iraq, bring universal health care, and make America energy independent.

X Senator Bingaman said, "Today, I am announcing my support for Barack Obama for president and declaring my intention to vote for him at the Democratic convention.

"Our nation faces a daunting number of critical challenges: reasserting America's leadership in the world, meeting our needs for energy independence, addressing global warming, making healthcare accessible and affordable, positioning our economy to effectively compete globally, and extricating ourselves from the war in Iraq, to name a few.

"To make progress, we must rise above the partisanship and the issues that divide us to find common ground. We must move the country in a dramatically new direction.

"I strongly believe Barack Obama is best positioned to lead the nation in that new direction."

Senator Obama said, "I'm grateful today to have Senator Bingaman's support. Senator Bingaman has been speaking out in the United States Senate on some of the most pressing issues of our time – saving our environment, fighting global warming, and making America energy independent. Senator Bingaman has been an important advocate in the energy debate, and has served the people of New Mexico for decades, giving voice to the issues that matter to families across the state. We are proud to have his support as we fight to bring about real change for families in New Mexico and across the country."

Senator Jeff Bingaman is the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has served in the United State Senate since 1982, and previously served as New Mexico Attorney General.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



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Senator Jeff Bingaman is the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has served in the United State Senate since 1982, and previously served as New Mexico Attorney General.

Barack Obama at Basketball Hall of Fame (Indiana) (2008-04-28 13:47)

Sen. Barack Obama visits the Basketball Hall of Fame inn New Castle, Indiana, with former NBA player George McGinnis and New Castle basketball coach Steven Bennett.

[EMBED]



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama: The Battle for Oregon (2008-04-28 17:55)

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this email today.

Given that it's calling for supporters to come canvass in Oregon, it must be focused on neighboring states like

California where I live.

One member of Sacramento for Obama has pledged to drive his van every weekend from Sacramento to Oregon for volunteers until election day.

Friend –



I wanted to take a moment to let you know where we stand in Oregon, one of the biggest remaining battleground states.

As I've traveled across Oregon, I've spoken to veterans, students, and hard-working families about the challenges middle-class America is facing – and about how we're going to start solving them.

I see the excitement on the ground, and I truly believe Oregon is ready to stand up for a different kind of politics. But only if people like you get involved and take ownership of this effort.

In the coming days, supporters from nearby states will be coming to Oregon to knock on doors, make phone calls, and reach out to as many voters as possible before the primary – and they need your help.

I know this is a big decision. But what's brought our campaign where we are today is that so many people – including many who never thought they'd get involved in politics in their lifetime – have taken that leap to help us succeed.

We need to build our movement in Oregon, so I hope you'll sign up to take the trip this weekend:

<http://my.barackobama.com/volunteerOR>

People are paying attention to what's happening in Oregon.

They know how far we've traveled together, but they want to know whether we can close this race, secure the nomination, and finally bring about the change our country so desperately needs.

We can bring jobs back to communities across America, reduce the price of gas, and put an end to the war in Iraq – but we need to finish strongly in Oregon.

We have just three weeks.

I hope you'll join us.

Barack



Check out this Flickr slideshow of Barack's visit to Indianapolis over the weekend.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



April Fundraising Deadline Approaches (2008-04-29 06:42)

The Obama campaign is offering a new limited edition car magnet as the April fundraising deadline approaches. More than 1,500,000 supporters have already contributed at least once. The new contributions will help efforts to register new voters in all 50 states including the large Vote for Change registration drive on May 10.



Friend –



Next week, we have the opportunity to close out this race and secure the nomination for Barack – but there's another deadline coming up even sooner.

Financial reports for April will be filed this Wednesday at midnight. The media pundits and Washington insiders will be watching the results and judging the strength of our campaign by the money we raise.

But what's most impressive about our movement is that our funding has come from grassroots supporters like you. We've never accepted donations from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs. Instead, more than 1,500,000 ordinary people have stepped up to own a piece of this campaign.

To meet this deadline and celebrate our grassroots donors, we've created a special gift.

Make a donation of \$15 or more before midnight on Wednesday, April 30th, and receive a limited edition Vote for Change car magnet:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/magnet>

The crucial North Carolina and Indiana primaries will require unprecedented resources. But we also need to start preparing for the general election.

We're building a powerful grassroots movement in all 50 states – organizing communities, registering voters, and bringing new voices into the political process.

We have accomplished so much, but we need your support today – to finish this contest, and to get ready to take on Senator McCain.

Help grow our movement at this critical time, and be part of history by joining 1,500,000 other Americans who are supporting this campaign.

Contribute \$15 or more before midnight on April 30th. You'll own a piece of this campaign and you'll receive a Vote for Change car magnet to show your support in style:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/magnet>

Thank you,

Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama: 36 Hours and Counting (2008-04-29 06:49)

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this email today.

Paul –

Tomorrow's financial reporting deadline is one of the most important of this election, and I need your help to make sure we're ready for North Carolina, Indiana, and the road ahead.

You may have heard that Senator Clinton is intensifying her fundraising efforts in an all-out bid to win in the next two states.

We'll need unprecedented resources to stay competitive in these contests – but we're not just looking toward the next primary. We're also preparing for the general election race against Senator McCain and building a grassroots campaign in all 50 states.

The next two days are a crucial time to build momentum for the remaining contests and the general election.

As a donor to this campaign, you're responsible for getting us this far. But right now we need to show our strength before Wednesday's fundraising deadline.

If you make a contribution before midnight tomorrow, a fellow supporter – someone who has already donated in April – has promised to give again and double your impact.

Make a donation of \$25 at this important time, and you can even choose to exchange a note with the supporter who is matching your gift:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

In every corner of the country, we're already organizing communities, helping register voters, and bringing people back into the political process.

And unlike Senator Clinton and Senator McCain, we are building our movement without taking any money from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs.

Instead, we put our trust in ordinary people like you. And nearly 1,500,000 supporters have stepped up to own a piece of this campaign.

Right now, your support is crucial to our efforts in North Carolina and Indiana, where we could close out this race in the coming week.

Make a matching donation of \$25 now and double your impact:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/match>

Thank you for your support,

Barack



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack discusses positive campaign at Chapel Hill (2008-04-29 07:33)

Check out this great video of the rally at Chapel Hill, North Carolina that attracted 18,000 people on April 28, 2008. Barack talks about getting pulled into negative exchanges and how he must take care to keep the campaign on the positive and unifying note that he committed to in the early going.

[EMBED]

Obama in North Carolina

Apr 29 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Winston-Salem, NC

Apr 29 Town Hall with Barack Obama

in Hickory, NC



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



2.5 May

(2008-05-01 08:11)

Check out the YouTube video with Barack explaining how the grassroots organization has life of its own that he will promote beyond the election.

Howard Dean, despite losing the primary, did something similar with Democracy for America, which is going strong today and has helped him in his bid to reform the Democratic Party.

Obama's network is even much stronger as it has seemingly paved the road to victory, minus any funny business by the superdelegates, against one of the most "inevitable" candidates ever to run for the presidency.

The campaign has relied on the self-starting network for many of its wins in states that were not high priorities in the early going.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



John McCain's Farrakhan Connection (2008-05-01 10:32)

Well, it seems not only does Sen. Hillary Clinton have a top level supporter who praised Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan in Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, but Sen. John McCain has Farrakhan links as well.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, who crossed party lines to endorse McCain, once was ready to meet with Farrakhan who he said that he 'respected.' The overture came during the 2000 election and after Farrakhan's highly successful Million Man March.

Here is an interview with NBC's Tim Russert in which Lieberman explains his views on Farrakhan.

[EMBED]

In 1984, President Reagan feted Minister Farrakhan and Rev. Jesse Jackson in the Rose Garden at the White House after the Minister used his support in the Muslim world to win the release of Lt. Goodman when his plane was shot down in Syria. Incidentally, Rev. Jeremiah Wright accompanied both Jackson and Farrakhan on their trip to free the navy pilot.



Pres. Ronald Reagan with Lt. Goodman and Jesse Jackson on Jan. 4, 1984.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



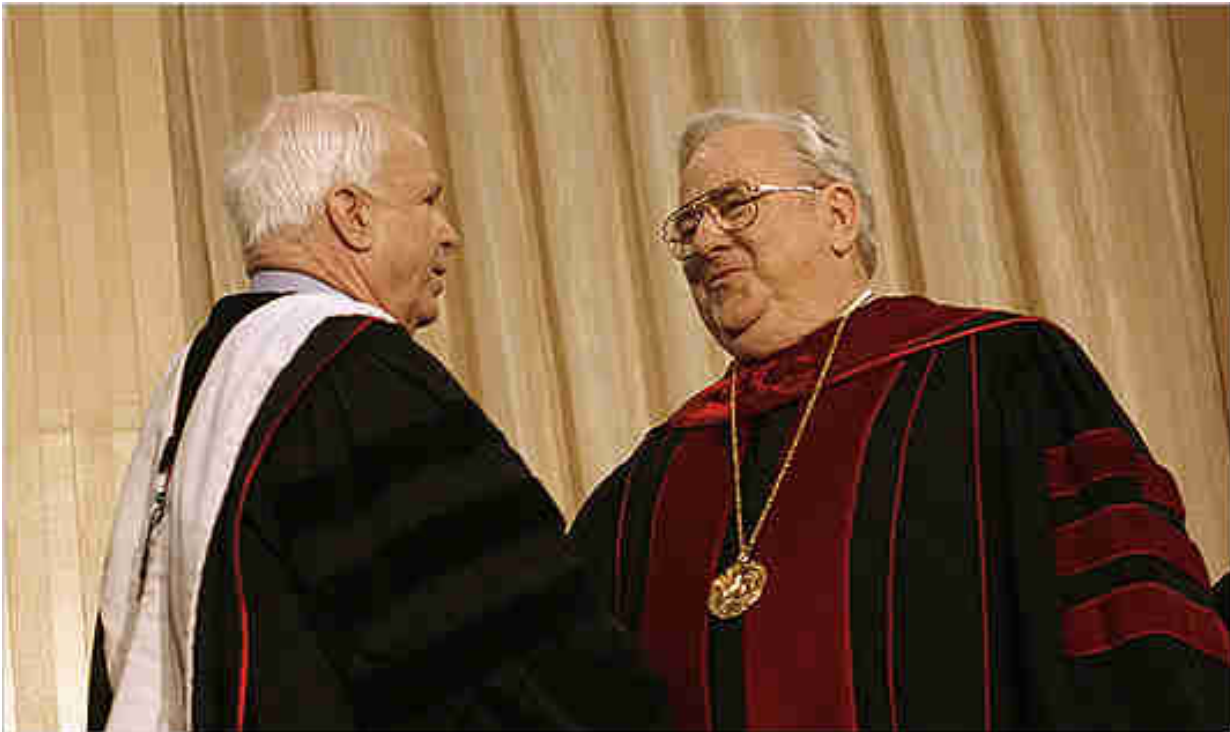
Guilt by Association (2008-05-01 15:46)

"Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell on the right."

- John McCain during 2000 Primary

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0003/03/ip.00.html>





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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Clinton Superdelegate endorses Obama (2008-05-01 17:35)

A major superdelegate supporter of Hillary Clinton has switched to the Barack Obama camp. Former Democratic Party leader and Indiana native Joe Andrew endorsed Obama today.

"The math[ematics] for this is simple," Mr Andrew told ABC News. "A vote for Hillary Clinton is a vote to continue this process." If Mr Obama can carry both Indiana and North Carolina on Tuesday – he is ahead in the latter but appears to be in a close race in the former – it could be enough to force Mrs Clinton out.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Barack (2008-05-02 08:20)

Here is a funny video produced by Humanitainment featuring Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton as the characters in a Star Wars spoof called "The Empire Strikes Barack."

Not difficult to guess who plays Darth Vader in this one!
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Preachers and Politics (2008-05-02 11:20)

With all the hoopla over pastors recently, I came across two hilarious YouTube videos that show how well religion and politics gel together.

The first shows Pastor Manning of Harlem, a vociferous supporter of the Clintons, who minces no words about Sen. Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Here we have a wonderful set of clips documenting the religious support of Sen. John McCain including Rev. Hagee.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Early Voting in Indiana may Favor Obama (2008-05-02 14:40)

The Obama campaign has executed an all-out early voting strategy in Indiana and it may be paying off.

About 20 percent of the 127,000-plus absentee ballots received as of early Friday were cast in three Indiana counties — Marion, Monroe and Lake — that political observers believe Obama is strongly favored to win.

Lake County has a large population of black voters and is in Chicago's shadow. Obama has typically won big among college-age voters, and Monroe County is the home of Indiana University in Bloomington. Obama's campaign sought out IU students with voter registration and early voting drives and a free Dave Matthews concert.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama in South Bend, Indiana answers a question on farming.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama wins Guam (2008-05-03 17:09)

Barack Obama pulled out a close victory in Guam by only seven votes according to CNN. This gives the Illinois senator 31 wins out of 46 contests, a maybe a bit of a psychological lift going into Tuesday's contests in North Carolina and

Indiana.

Check out Barack's TV ad in the Hoosier State.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack and Michelle visit ancestral homestead in Indiana (2008-05-03 20:02)

Amanda Scott of barackobama.com posted this interesting blog on Barack Obama's visit to the ancestral homestead of his mother's family, the Dunhams.

Barack has some interesting indirect ancestors on his mother's side including Edward I, King of England, and William I "The Lion" King of Scots. The former is also an ancestor of John McCain.

His father's people, the Luo, has been the focus of much interest by anthropologists. One branch especially, the Shilluk, has preserved many cultural features of the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt.

Barack and Michelle Visit Kempton

by Amanda Scott

, Saturday, May 03, 2008 at 05:33 PM

Barack visited the former Indiana homestead of his mother's family, the Dunhams, with his wife Michelle and daughters Malia and Sasha today.

The Kempton, Indiana, property was once owned by Barack's second, third and fourth great-grandfathers and the house that currently sits on the land was built by Barack's great uncle, William Riley Dunham, who was a Democratic member of the Indiana General Assembly.

Details of the Obama family history in Indiana:

- Barack's fourth great-grandfather, Jacob Dunham, moved to Kempton in the 1840s and is buried at the Kempton Cemetery.
- Barack's third great-grandfather, Jacob Mackey Dunham, was a farmer in Kempton and married his third great-grandmother there July 21, 1853.
- Barack's second great-grandfather, Jacob William Dunham, was born in Kempton February 7, 1863. Jacob William Dunham moved to Kansas, where Obama's grandfather and mother were eventually born.
- When Jacob William Dunham left Indiana, he sold the land to Barack's great uncle, William Riley Dunham, who built the existing home in the late 1800s.

Check out these pictures from their tour:

[EMBED] And don't forget to sign up for a Get Out The Vote shift this weekend!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Newspapers Endorse Barack Obama in NC, IN (2008-05-04 13:46)

Sen. Barack Obama was endorsed by four newspapers today, three in Indiana and by The Charlotte Observer in North Carolina.

Barack has been the darling of print media throughout this campaign. Here are excerpts of the Indiana endorsements from barackobama.com .

Indiana: Three Sunday Newspaper Endorsements for Obama

by Christopher Hass,

Sunday, May 04, 2008 at 09:23 AM

With the Indiana primary just days away, three more Midwestern newspapers formally endorsed Barack Obama in this morning's Sunday editions: the Muncie Star Press, the Gary Post-Tribune, and the Louisville Courier-Journal (which has a large southern Indiana readership, and endorsed Barack both in Tuesday's contest and Kentucky's May 20th primary).

From the Muncie Star Press:

Sen. Barack Obama is the best candidate in the race for the Democratic nomination for president. He represents America's best chance for a real and positive change in direction for a country beset by an unpopular war and economic doldrums.

The United States is as polarized as it has ever been in its 232-year history. From the Oval Office all the way to Main Street, the division has paralyzed the country. Obama has demonstrated a unique ability to unite Americans of all ages, race and gender and has the best chance to end the culture war at home. He also could unify a country that that needs to pull together, not apart, if it expects to keep its position as world leader and restore its moral authority.

... Obama has breathed new life into the Democratic party, helping to rebuild it into a 50-state party through his appeal to important and previously disaffected young voters. Youth are the future of our country, but both parties have either ignored or been unable to reach them for generations. The fact that many are paying attention now, thanks to Obama, bodes well for the future.

... Obama represents our best hope for a different kind of presidency with a different attitude that could lead to a better America. Change is a word that has become the key - and the most overused - word in this campaign. The truth is, however, a real change in the leadership style at the top could lead to change all the way down to Main Street. We need someone who will inspire us to be better as a people and as a country - to change. Barack Obama is that person.

From the Gary Post-Tribune:

The buzz word in the race for the Democratic nomination for president has been "change" — change from the failed policies of President Bush, who has little positive to hold on to as he approaches the end of his presidency.

Barack Obama has taken the crusade for change a step further, calling for a change in the politics and policies of Washington and the country as a whole.

We recommend a vote for Obama because he potentially represents more of what is new than Hillary Clinton, who is part of the inside crowd in Washington.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal:

"We were always the longshot," [Senator Obama said in an interview last week with this newspaper's editorial board]. "The fact we've done so well speaks to the hunger of the American people for a different message and a different direction."

We agree, and we also believe that Sen. Obama is the Democratic candidate better equipped to restore Americans' hope for the future and to bring change to Washington.

For that reason, we endorse Sen. Obama in Tuesday's Indiana primary and in the May 20 contest in Kentucky.

Read the list of over 100 newspapers that have endorsed Barack Obama . . .

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-05-05 05:43:00)

President Obama

Forty years ago in 1967 Carl B. Stokes was elected the first black Mayor of a major American city. I was the operations manager of that campaign along with my partner Geraldine Williams. In 1965, Stokes had run and almost won in a city that was 70 % white and 30 % black. In 1965 he had come so close to winning that there was a recount. His victory in 67 was hailed as one the greatest moments in the civil rights struggle and also a triumph of the brotherhood of man. Partially, yes—partially, no. In the 1965 campaign there were practically no white votes for Stokes. In 67 there was only 15 %. Not exactly a triumph for the brotherhood of man.! In fact, in 1965 I was his "white" aide and traveling companion to show not only the white community, but also just as importantly the black community that he had white support. Many in the black community said "it's not time"—he's not ready—will he win and bring disgrace to the community—will he be killed by the racists" Do these same sentiments sound familiar in 2007?

Also, in 1965 he was up against a potent political machine, one that regularly "bought off" members of the black community. There were city councilman and black pastors all of whom had ties to the white establishment. Sound familiar in 2007?

In both 1965 and 1967 it was the black community that turned out in large numbers and then voted 97 % for Stokes. He still lost in 1965 because the councilman and pastors disaffected some of the black vote but it was so close that in 1967 and with the blessing of the establishment he won—but by a very small margin. Again, it was the black turnout and overwhelming percentage of vote in his favor that carried the day.

How does Barack Obama's campaign of 2007 differ from those two campaigns of long ago? He is running against the establishment (the Clinton machine) and there are black "leaders" that are staying with the establishment. Polls are showing that many in the black community are saying the same things that they said in 1965—it's not time—he's not ready—he will be killed if he is elected. Are these sentiments carried down through time going to defeat him in 2007?

Here is the reason that the campaigns are not alike. The white support for Obama is huge compared to the white support for Stokes forty years ago. Who would have dreamed then that a black man running for the President of the United States could garner such white support, attract such crowds, and be so close to winning. When I see campaign crowds, I see a sea of white faces cheering him and I see a much different time than that of 1965 & 1967.

Following is an example from the 1965 campaign. It shows how extraordinary the idea of a black mayor (there are now hundreds) was to the black community at that time.

The last weekend before the election we had a parade through the streets of the East Side of Cleveland. It wasn't much of a parade, as parades go, a handful of cars with balloons and banners on the them, horns honking, people waving, and Carl and is wife sitting on the back of the last car. I was in the front seat. As the caravan pulled past the corner, there was a small boy about ten or eleven standing in the middle of a group of children. The cars had been going past honking with signs "Stokes for Mayor" on the sides. As the car with Stokes sitting on the back came to the corner the boy stood straight up, his eyes widened at the sight of Carl and he cried out, "HE'S COLORED." He started to clap his hands and jump up and down. "HE'S COLORED, HE'S COLORED," he cried out to no one in particular. "HE'S COLORED, HE'S COLORED" and he started to skip down the street after the car. I looked back as the cars picked up speed and left the little boy in the distance. He was still running and clapping

his hands. I turned around to Carl and caught a very different expression on his face, part smile and part a distant look in his eyes. "I think it's all been worthwhile," I said. A quick but soft-spoken reply, "Yes, I think you're right." That's how it was back then. A little boy thought, "this couldn't be—his parents and grandparents thought—could this possibly be? And a city and a nation wondered if history was in the making.

I sometimes wonder where that little boy is now, forty years later. What about his children and grandchildren? Does he remember how he felt that day? Does he remember the wonderment of seeing a black man sitting on the top of a convertible, his skipping down the street in that wonderment of a black man striving for the impossible? How do his children and grandchildren feel today? Will they participate in today's "impossible dream"?

Now, forty years later I see the crowds, more white than black, cheering a man of color. Now, forty years later, I see polls showing that this man of color could likely be the next President of the United States. I see now, forty years later, that dreams do come true—and a little boy of so long ago could still clap, skip down the street and cry out—"He's colored—He's colored—he's colored".

Will the black community support Obama as we Irish Catholics did for John Kennedy in 1960, as the Mormons will do for Mitt Romney this year, as every ethnic group has done for their history making candidates since the country began. It is the black vote that can insure victory for Barack Obama. This is the year. This is the time. This is history in the making.

The face of The United States of America is about to change.

Tom Hanks Endorses Barack Obama on MySpace (2008-05-04 15:20)

Actor Tom Hanks posted a video on his MySpace page endorsing Barack Obama. Here's a copy from YouTube.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video from Indiana (2008-05-04 20:48)

Hoosiers for Obama .

[EMBED]

Three people in Indiana tell why they switched their support from Hillary Clinton to Barack Obama.

Indianapolis Pre-JJ Dinner [EMBED]

Obama supporters rally before the Indiana Jefferson Jackson Dinner on May 4th, 2008.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Last Pitch to Indiana (2008-05-05 10:29)

Here is the final Obama campaign television ad in Indiana. There is a strong appeal here to the working class voters.
[EMBED]

Barack takes Michelle and the kids canvassing in Indiana. Afterward, Barack participated in a pick-up game of basketball.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Primary Eve (2008-05-05 14:53)

The Obama campaign has released a last second ad slamming negative campaigning and calling for real solutions instead.

[EMBED]

And here's an ad airing in North Carolina hitting at Hillary's gas tax cut proposal.

[EMBED]

Native American activist and superdelegate KayIn Free, a Choctaw Nation member, endorsed Barack Obama today. Barack has been garnering many more superdelegates recently as compared to Hillary Clinton whose early lead is diminishing.

Barack released this statement for today's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

"As Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo, we're reminded that while Mexico's cultural traditions are an important part of who we are as Americans, the American dream is still out of reach for too many Latinos. Only eleven percent of Latinos obtain a college degree, which is why we need to make college affordable for all. Nearly a third of America's uninsured are Latino, which is why we need to provide universal health care for every American. And our broken immigration system works for neither the immigrant families who are being torn apart nor the workers who are concerned about unfair competition, which is why we need to pass comprehensive immigration reform once and for all. So while I hope that all Americans are enjoying this Cinco de Mayo, I also hope that when the celebrations come to an end, we'll take up the cause of coming together as Americans to solve our common challenges and put the American dream within reach for every family in this country."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Ride Share in North Carolina and Indiana (2008-05-05 22:12)

If you would like to help drive voters to the polls, contact an Indiana Township Team by clicking on the link below.



This link is for North Carolina ride-sharing.

You can also sign up for the election night party at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.



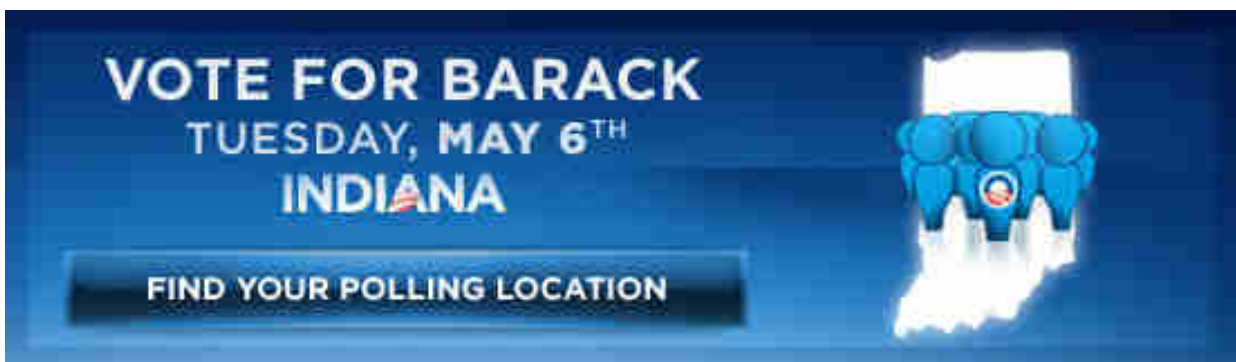
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Early indications look good (2008-05-06 08:46)

Early reports from the ground indicate Barack Obama should do well today. Turnout in North Carolina looks like it will be very high, an indication that should favor Obama.

Early voting in Indiana has been strong in counties where Barack's support is known to be strong. Although many polls had shown that the Illinois senator was trailing Hillary Clinton in Indiana, a lot rests on the final voter turnout.



Photos from Barack Obama's breakfast stop in Greenwood, Indiana.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Paul (2008-05-06 10:10:00)

How off will tonight's exit polling be?

The last few election cycles have conditioned us to mistrust exit polling. Now Obama adds another dimension. Polling leading up to contests, and exit polling after have tended to exaggerate Obama's share of the electorate. Wins for Hillary will exaggerate the momentum, late deciders, greater than expected margins, and the magnitude of the upsets. Penn. had MSNBC's crew waiting long after polls closed to call the election, sowing a mistrust in the exit polling showing Obama doing much-much better than expected. In the end the numbers turned out dead wrong. So leading into today the realclearpolitics averages were:

North Carolina: Obama 50 % Clinton 42 % or Obama +8 %

Indiana: Obama 44 % Clinton 49 % or Clinton +5 %

Vote @ www.myalteregoblog.blogspot.com

Barack Obama Projected as Winner in North Carolina (2008-05-06 17:07)

CNN and MSNBC have projected that Barack Obama will win North Carolina, while Indiana is still too early to call. Some important counties in Indiana including those near Barack's hometown of Chicago still have not reported any numbers, so mathematically he could still possibly come back in the Hoosier State.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama speaks in Raleigh (2008-05-06 17:53)

Here is the text of Barack Obama's speech at North Carolina State University in Raleigh as prepared for delivery.

[EMBED]

You know, some were saying that North Carolina would be a game-changer in this election. But today, what North Carolina decided is that the only game that needs changing is the one in Washington, DC.

I want to start by congratulating Senator Clinton on her victory in the state of Indiana. And I want to thank the people of North Carolina for giving us a victory in a big state, a swing state, and a state where we will compete to win if I am the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

When this campaign began, Washington didn't give us much of a chance. But because you came out in the bitter cold, and knocked on doors, and enlisted your friends and neighbors in this cause; because you stood up to the cynics, and the doubters, and the nay-sayers when we were up and when we were down; because you still believe that this is our moment, and our time, for change – tonight we stand less than two hundred delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

More importantly, because of you, we have seen that it's possible to overcome the politics of division and distraction; that it's possible to overcome the same old negative attacks that are always about scoring points and never about solving our problems. We've seen that the American people aren't looking for more spin or more gimmicks, but honest answers about the challenges we face. That's what you've accomplished in this campaign, and that's how we'll change this country together.

This has been one of the longest, most closely fought contests in history. And that's partly because we have such a formidable opponent in Senator Hillary Clinton. Tonight, many of the pundits have suggested that this party is

inalterably divided – that Senator Clinton’s supporters will not support me, and that my supporters will not support her.

Well I’m here tonight to tell you that I don’t believe it. Yes, there have been bruised feelings on both sides. Yes, each side desperately wants their candidate to win. But ultimately, this race is not about Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama or John McCain. This election is about you – the American people – and whether we will have a president and a party that can lead us toward a brighter future.

This primary season may not be over, but when it is, we will have to remember who we are as Democrats – that we are the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy; and that we are at our best when we lead with principle; when we lead with conviction; when we summon an entire nation around a common purpose – a higher purpose. This fall, we intend to march forward as one Democratic Party, united by a common vision for this country. Because we all agree that at this defining moment in history – a moment when we’re facing two wars, an economy in turmoil, a planet in peril – we can’t afford to give John McCain the chance to serve out George Bush’s third term. We need change in America.

The woman I met in Indiana who just lost her job, and her pension, and her insurance when the plant where she worked at her entire life closed down – she can’t afford four more years of tax breaks for corporations like the one that shipped her job overseas. She needs us to give tax breaks to companies that create good jobs here in America. She can’t afford four more years of tax breaks for CEOs like the one who walked away from her company with a multi-million dollar bonus. She needs middle-class tax relief that will help her pay the skyrocketing price of groceries, and gas, and college tuition. That’s why I’m running for President.

The college student I met in Iowa who works the night shift after a full day of class and still can’t pay the medical bills for a sister who’s ill – she can’t afford four more years of a health care plan that only takes care of the healthy and the wealthy; that allows insurance companies to discriminate and deny coverage to those Americans who need it most. She needs us to stand up to those insurance companies and pass a plan that lowers every family’s premiums and gives every uninsured American the same kind of coverage that Members of Congress give themselves. That’s why I’m running for President.

The mother in Wisconsin who gave me a bracelet inscribed with the name of the son she lost in Iraq; the families who pray for their loved ones to come home; the heroes on their third and fourth and fifth tour of duty – they can’t afford four more years of a war that should’ve never been authorized and never been waged. They can’t afford four more years of our veterans returning to broken-down barracks and substandard care. They need us to end a war that isn’t making us safer. They need us to treat them with the care and respect they deserve. That’s why I’m running for President.

The man I met in Pennsylvania who lost his job but can’t even afford the gas to drive around and look for a new one – he can’t afford four more years of an energy policy written by the oil companies and for the oil companies; a policy that’s not only keeping gas at record prices, but funding both sides of the war on terror and destroying our planet in the process. He doesn’t need four more years of Washington policies that sound good, but don’t solve the problem. He needs us to take a permanent holiday from our oil addiction by making the automakers raise their fuel standards, corporations pay for their pollution, and oil companies invest their record profits in a clean energy future. That’s the change we need. And that’s why I’m running for President.

The people I’ve met in small towns and big cities across this country understand that government can’t solve all our problems – and we don’t expect it to. We believe in hard work. We believe in personal responsibility and self-reliance.

But we also believe that we have a larger responsibility to one another as Americans – that America is a place – that America is the place – where you can make it if you try. That no matter how much money you start with or where you come from or who your parents are, opportunity is yours if you’re willing to reach for it and work for it. It’s the idea that while there are few guarantees in life, you should be able to count on a job that pays the bills; health care for when you need it; a pension for when you retire; an education for your children that will allow them to fulfill their God-given potential. That’s the America we believe in. That’s the America I know.

This is the country that gave my grandfather a chance to go to college on the GI Bill when he came home from World War II; a country that gave him and my grandmother the chance to buy their first home with a loan from the government.

This is the country that made it possible for my mother – a single parent who had to go on food stamps at one point – to send my sister and me to the best schools in the country on scholarships.

This is the country that allowed my father-in-law – a city worker at a South Side water filtration plant – to provide for his wife and two children on a single salary. This is a man who was diagnosed at age thirty with multiple sclerosis – who relied on a walker to get himself to work. And yet, every day he went, and he labored, and he sent my wife and her brother to one of the best colleges in the nation. It was a job that didn't just give him a paycheck, but a sense of dignity and self-worth. It was an America that didn't just reward wealth, but the work and the workers who created it.

Somewhere along the way, between all the bickering and the influence-peddling and the game-playing of the last few decades, Washington and Wall Street have lost touch with these values. And while I honor John McCain's service to his country, his ideas for America are out of touch with these values. His plans for the future are nothing more than the failed policies of the past. And his plan to win in November appears to come from the very same playbook that his side has used time after time in election after election.

Yes, we know what's coming. We've seen it already. The same names and labels they always pin on everyone who doesn't agree with all their ideas. The same efforts to distract us from the issues that affect our lives by pouncing on every gaffe and association and fake controversy in the hope that the media will play along. The attempts to play on our fears and exploit our differences to turn us against each other for pure political gain – to slice and dice this country into Red States and Blue States; blue-collar and white-collar; white and black, and brown.

This is what they will do – no matter which one of us is the nominee. The question, then, is not what kind of campaign they'll run, it's what kind of campaign we will run. It's what we will do to make this year different. I didn't get into race thinking that I could avoid this kind of politics, but I am running for President because this is the time to end it.

We will end it this time not because I'm perfect – I think by now this campaign has reminded all of us of that. We will end it not by duplicating the same tactics and the same strategies as the other side, because that will just lead us down the same path of polarization and gridlock.

We will end it by telling the truth – forcefully, repeatedly, confidently – and by trusting that the American people will embrace the need for change.

Because that's how we've always changed this country – not from the top-down, but from the bottom-up; when you – the American people – decide that the stakes are too high and the challenges are too great.

The other side can label and name-call all they want, but I trust the American people to recognize that it's not surrender to end the war in Iraq so that we can rebuild our military and go after al Qaeda's leaders. I trust the American people to understand that it's not weakness, but wisdom to talk not just to our friends, but our enemies – like Roosevelt did, and Kennedy did, and Truman did.

I trust the American people to realize that while we don't need big government, we do need a government that stands up for families who are being tricked out of their homes by Wall Street predators; a government that stands up for the middle-class by giving them a tax break; a government that ensures that no American will ever lose their life savings just because their child gets sick. Security and opportunity; compassion and prosperity aren't liberal values or conservative values – they're American values.

Most of all, I trust the American people's desire to no longer be defined by our differences. Because no matter where I've been in this country – whether it was the corn fields of Iowa or the textile mills of the Carolinas; the streets of San Antonio or the foothills of Georgia – I've found that while we may have different stories, we hold common hopes. We may not look the same or come from the same place, but we want to move in the same direction – towards a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

That's why I'm in this race. I love this country too much to see it divided and distracted at this moment in history. I believe in our ability to perfect this union because it's the only reason I'm standing here today. And I know the promise of America because I have lived it.

It is the light of opportunity that led my father across an ocean.

It is the founding ideals that the flag draped over my grandfather's coffin stands for – it is life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It's the simple truth I learned all those years ago when I worked in the shadows of a shuttered steel mill on the South Side of Chicago – that in this country, justice can be won against the greatest of odds; hope can find its way back to the darkest of corners; and when we are told that we cannot bring about the change that we seek, we answer with one voice – yes we can.

So don't ever forget that this election is not about me, or any candidate. Don't ever forget that this campaign is about you – about your hopes, about your dreams, about your struggles, about securing your portion of the American Dream.

Don't ever forget that we have a choice in this country – that we can choose not to be divided; that we can choose not to be afraid; that we can still choose this moment to finally come together and solve the problems we've talked about all those other years in all those other elections.

This time can be different than all the rest. This time we can face down those who say our road is too long; that our climb is too steep; that we can no longer achieve the change that we seek. This is our time to answer the call that so many generations of Americans have answered before – by insisting that by hard work, and by sacrifice, the American Dream will endure. Thank you, and may God Bless the United States of America. - - -

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-05-08 20:09:00)

Go on to <http://www.brucechapmanproductions.com/index.html>

Anonymous (2008-05-08 20:09:00)

Hi

Anonymous (2008-05-08 20:11:00)

Go on to <http://www.brucechapmanproductions.com/index.html>

Things looking up in Indiana! (2008-05-06 18:42)

I'm not predicting a win, but Barack has closed to within 4 points and Lake County, a suburb of Chicago has not reported any votes yet.

A wide spread in Lake County might guarantee a win now regardless of what happens in the rest of the state. However, Barack also looks strong in a few other counties.

It may be that counting will go on for some time before we know the winner.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-05-06 21:42:00)

If they give IN. to Obama because of one county, i'm going to write the DNC and tell them off. But i wouldn't vote for Obama if he was the only one running.

Obama nets more popular votes (2008-05-06 22:18)

Well, looks like Hillary pulled out a close victory in Indiana by two points.

Overall, Obama will net about 205,000 to 215,000 more popular votes than Hillary taking into account both North Carolina and Indiana.

Let's see if the superdelegates respond tomorrow.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2008-05-07 07:58)

Primary results put super squeeze on superdelegates to back Obama

Jeff Haynes/REUTERS/Chris Keane

Sen. Clinton addresses her supporters in Indianapolis, Ind., while Obama attends an election night rally in Raleigh, N.C.

By Doug Stone

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Sen. Barack Obama won decisively in the North Carolina primary (56 to 42 percent) Tuesday night while Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won a close race in Indiana (51 to 49 percent), but the consensus among analysts was that Obama's victory carried more weight, as well as more delegates.

Adam Nagourney reported in The New York Times that "for Mr. Obama, the apparently divided outcome came after a brutal period in which he was on the defensive over the inflammatory comments of his former pastor. That he was able to hold his own under those circumstances should allow him to make a case that he has proved his resilience in the face of questions about race, values and patriotism — the very kinds of issues that the Clinton campaign has suggested would leave him vulnerable in the general election.

"When paired with Mr. Obama's comfortable victory in North Carolina, a bigger state, Mrs. Clinton's performance in Indiana did not seem to be enough to cut into Mr. Obama's lead in pledged delegates or in his overall lead in the popular vote. And because Mrs. Clinton did not appear to come particularly close in North Carolina, despite a substantial effort there, she lost an opportunity to sow new doubts among Democratic leaders about Mr. Obama's general-election appeal."

With record turnout in both states, "Obama took an overwhelming 91 percent of the black vote in North Carolina, according to exit polls, with Clinton taking only six percent. Clinton took 59 percent of the white vote, compared with 36 percent for Obama, according to the polls."

The delegate tally

The exit polls also showed that 81 percent said that the economic recession had affected them. Among those voters, "fifty-two percent ...said they think Obama is better suited to improve the economy, compared with 42 percent who

said Clinton. Among voters who said they have been affected by the economy, Obama took 55 percent of the vote, compared with 41 percent for Clinton."

The Washington Post reported that "due to Obama's tremendous strength among black voters in North Carolina, he carried nearly every major demographic category as well. Obama won among men 57 percent to 39 percent over Clinton; he won among women, 54 percent to 42 percent."

Obama's delegate count brought him closer to the nomination — 1,840.5 to 1,684 for Clinton in The Associated Press count, out of 2,025 needed to win the nomination.

Obama also enjoys a popular vote margin of roughly 500,000 and has won 31 contests to Clinton's 16.

So Obama continues to lead in all categories: delegates, popular vote and elections. And the margins will increase after Tuesday, meaning it will be difficult, if not impossible, for Clinton to overtake him. And it will be increasingly difficult for uncommitted superdelegates to deny him the nomination, many analysts suggested last night on the cable network talkathons. But Clinton has shown no signs of being willing to drop out.

Clinton emphasized populist themes during recent weeks, The Times reported, "yet she was unable to build her base of support substantially beyond the white, working-class voters who had sustained her for the last month — and that will not be lost on the super delegates, the elected Democrats and party leaders who will ultimately decide this fight."

Obama's controversial former pastor, The Rev. Jeremiah Wright, played a role in the election in both states, CBS reported, with half saying it was important in their vote and half saying it was not.

'Defining moment in history'

In an impassioned speech to supporters last night in Raleigh, N.C., Obama, shaking off several weeks of campaign turmoil, talked as though he would be the eventual nominee.

"We stand less than 200 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," he said. "But ultimately, this race is not about Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama or John McCain...because we all agree that at this defining moment in history — a moment when we're facing two wars, an economy in turmoil, a planet in peril — we can't afford to give John McCain the chance to serve out George Bush's third term," Obama said. "We need change in America."

Clinton, flanked by the former president and her daughter, Chelsea, did not declare victory in Indiana in a speech late last night, but came close.

"Not too long ago my opponent made a prediction; he said I would probably win Pennsylvania. He would probably win in North Carolina. And Indiana would be a tiebreaker," she said. "Well, we've broken the tie, and thanks to you it's full speed on to the White House." But Clinton also assured her supporters and the television audience that she would work for the party nominee in the fall.

Whoever ultimately wins the nomination will have a good deal of work to do to woo back the other candidate's supporters, according to exit polls.

CNN reported that "half of Clinton's supporters in Indiana would not vote for Obama in a general election match up with Sen. John McCain... A third of Clinton voters said they would pick McCain over Obama, while 17 percent said they would not vote at all. Forty-eight percent of Clinton supporters said they would back Obama in November. Obama got even less support from Clinton backers in North Carolina where 45 percent of Clinton supporters said they would vote for him over McCain. Thirty-eight percent of Clinton supporters said they would vote for McCain while 12 percent said they would not vote.

"Obama voters appear to be more willing to support Clinton in November. In Indiana, 59 percent of Obama backers said they'd vote for Clinton, and 70 percent of Obama backers in North Carolina said they'd vote for her against McCain."

Poll experts point out that those numbers may change significantly by the general election, but they still present challenges for the eventual Democratic nominee, particularly Obama.

Doug Stone is director of College Relations at Macalester College in St. Paul and a former reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune and assistant news director at WCCO-TV. The views in this article are not those of Macalester College.

Obama News on Wednesday (2008-05-07 12:19)

Brian Cardarella is donating half of his Bush stimulus check to the Obama campaign, and he's encouraging others to consider donating a portion of their checks. Obviously, the Bush economy makes it harder for many people to donate, but that hasn't stopped Barack from breaking all fundraising records.

Today, Barack picked up three additional superdelegates, former Clinton supporter and South Dakota senator George McGovern was said to have switched to Obama after asking Hillary to concede.

Barack now needs 170 more delegates to gain the nomination. From barackobama.com :

Three Superdelegates Endorse Obama; Delegate Countdown - 170 To Go

by Sam Graham-Felsen,

Wednesday, May 07, 2008 at 11:51 AM

Chicago, IL - The day after Barack Obama's commanding victory in North Carolina and tight finish in Indiana, three superdelegates today endorsed Barack Obama.

The three previously uncommitted superdelegates endorsing Obama are North Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jerry Meek, North Carolina DNC member Jeanette Council, and California DNC member Inola Henry.

These endorsements brings the total number of superdelegates to endorse Obama to 261. Senator Obama is 170 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination.

Chairman Meek said, "Over the past year, I've watched as Barack Obama has drawn countless new people to the political process. Although my position as State Chair has led me to remain neutral through the primary, I've quietly celebrated as Barack Obama offered new hope to millions of Americans who have lost faith in the American dream after years of disastrous Republican policies. Rarely does a public servant emerge with Barack Obama's ability to unite our country and produce real change. With Barack Obama as our nominee, North Carolina can deliver its electoral votes to a Democrat and Democratic candidates up and down the ballot will benefit. Barack Obama offers the best chance to take back the White House, elect countless democrats down-ballot, and breathe new life into the Democratic Party."

Jeanette Council said, "I am pleased today to be endorsing Barack Obama as he continues to unite Americans for change. This election is a unique opportunity for all Americans and Barack Obama's campaign has inspired and changed the entire face of our country. His campaign has mobilized new people and welcomed people of all ages, races, backgrounds, attracted everyone from first time voters to voters who have participated their entire adult lives. The way he has built a campaign that reflects his message of hope and change and brought all different communities to the table is unlike any campaign I have ever seen."

Council added, "I am first and foremost a Democrat and the Democratic Party is truly the party of the people, the party of inclusion that wants to engage all people in the political process. This is what Barack Obama has done. Seeing this happen, especially here in North Carolina, has changed me forever and given me hope that we can change this country. I put much thought, consideration and most importantly prayer into this decision, and today I know I am backing a candidate who can put our country on the right path. I'm proud to endorse him today."

Let's keep building the momentum. It's up to us to make sure this movement continues to grow...



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

30 Superdelegates to Endorse Obama? (2008-05-07 20:59)

Drudge.com says that 30 superdelegates are set to endorse Sen. Barack Obama over the next 48 hours giving James Zogby as the source of the information.

Zogby also reportedly said that party elders and officials will begin pressuring Hillary Clinton to exit the race and unite the party behind Barack.

There is some talk that Hillary may begin campaigning for the VP spot instead.

National Voter Registration Day: This Saturday

by Christopher Hass,

Wednesday, May 07, 2008 at 06:07 PM



This Saturday, we're launching Vote for Change, an unprecedented 50-state voter registration and mobilization drive. In one day more than 100 events will be held across the country, with at least one event in every single state. No matter where you live, you can find an event near you. After a brief training, we'll hit the streets to register voters.

The events this Saturday will kick-off of a six-month voter registration drive that could reshape the electoral map. If more Americans get involved, get registered and show up to vote, we can change Washington this November.

Recent voter registration drives have registered more than 200,000 new Democrats in Pennsylvania, more than 165,000 new Democrats in North Carolina, and more than 150,000 new Democrats in Indiana. Those numbers just scratch the surface of what's possible.

With this election, we have the chance to ensure that more voters than ever take an active stake in our country's future.

Click on a state below to find an event near you: [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

More on McCain Preachers (2008-05-08 08:18)

John Hagee on Catholic Church, Hurricane Katrina, etc.

[EMBED]

McCain endorser Rod Parsley on the U.S. government's campaign of genocide against African Americans.

[EMBED]

Parsley calls on U.S. to destroy Islam. McCain calls Parsley a spiritual guide, the latter saying United States created to battle Islam.

[EMBED]

Interestingly, McCain once criticized the religious right as "agents of intolerance" and decried those who pandered to such preachers.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on McCain Preachers (2008-05-08 08:18)

John Hagee on Catholic Church ('Great Whore')

[EMBED]

Obama Moves To Unify Party Against McCain (2008-05-08 21:55)

Check out the Washington Post article on Barack Obama's moves to unite the party for the general election in November.

Obama Seeks To Unify Party For November

Meanwhile, Clinton Gives No Hint She'll Surrender

By Shailagh Murray and Perry Bacon Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writers

Friday, May 9, 2008; Page A01

Sen. Barack Obama began taking the first steps to unify the fractured Democratic Party for a general-election battle against Sen. John McCain, even as Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton continued to insist that she has the backing of a broader coalition that could carry the party to victory in November.

Returning to Washington yesterday, Obama was mobbed by well-wishers as he walked onto the House floor. But behind the scenes, his campaign worked with a light touch to win over uncommitted superdelegates and allies of Clinton, mindful of not appearing overconfident and of the fact that they would need the backing of the candidate, her husband and their supporters in the fall.

With numerous prominent Democrats believed to be waiting in the wings to endorse his candidacy, Obama appears poised to win the pledged delegates and superdelegates he will need to claim the Democratic nomination as early as May 20, when Kentucky and Oregon vote. But although he appeared to lock

down his lead on Tuesday with a strong win in North Carolina and a narrow loss in Indiana, he won only two new superdelegate endorsements yesterday, from Reps. Rick Larsen (Wash.) and Brad Miller (N.C.). Many other unaligned lawmakers said they are likely to remain on the sidelines for the time being, in deference to Clinton.

"Superdelegates understandably would prefer not to be seen as the deciding factor," Obama told reporters between meetings at the Capitol, brushing aside the suggestion that a mass endorsement is in the offing. "I think they respect the process, they respect Senator Clinton and myself."

As Clinton campaigned in West Virginia, which will hold its primary on Tuesday, her backers were also calling superdelegates, encouraging them to remain uncommitted until after the final two primaries on June 3 and touting poll numbers suggesting that Clinton would be a stronger nominee in key states such as Florida and Ohio. "Some people don't agree, but most people respect the argument," said Steve Grossman, a member of Clinton's national finance team.

In Charleston, W.Va., yesterday, Clinton argued that the coalition of voters backing her would make her more viable than Obama against McCain. "The delegate math may get complicated, but the electoral math is easy: We need 270 electoral votes to win in November," she said at a rally.

Clinton is expected to win the state by a hefty margin. Yesterday, she repeatedly referred to her appeal among "hardworking Americans," including "Catholic voters, Hispanic voters, blue-collar voters and seniors – the kind of people who Senator McCain will be fighting for in the general election." She did not repeat the term "white voters," which she used in a USA Today interview published yesterday.

She also gave no hint of surrender in a letter to Obama about the delegate impasse involving Florida and Michigan. "Your commitment to the voters of these states must be clearly stated and your support for a fair and quick resolution must be clearly demonstrated," she wrote.

After Tuesday's primaries left Obama the clear Democratic front-runner, McCain's campaign refocused its attention on the senator from Illinois, preparing to question his experience on national security and his credentials on reform issues. Clinton, meanwhile, had become an afterthought for the presumptive GOP nominee.

"After I've been saying for a year, 'Don't count the Clintons out until they're out.' People are laughing at me," said Charles Black, a McCain campaign adviser. "I don't see how she does it."

Mark Salter, a senior McCain adviser, struck back sharply after Obama said on CNN that McCain was "losing his bearings" when he suggested that Hamas preferred that Obama be elected. Salter said Obama used the phrase "intentionally, a not particularly clever way of raising John McCain's age as an issue. This is typical of Obama's style of campaigning."

In Chicago, Obama's team worked to accelerate a transition to general-election mode that began weeks ago, only to be shelved as the primary showdown continued. In addition to competing in the six remaining contests, Obama will mix in stops to battleground states in the coming weeks, advisers said.

Next Page

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Small-Town Shelley (2008-05-09 05:02:00)

I am one of those supposed "racist Democrats" who won't support Senator Obama because he is black. I would like to speak up for we the people, in Small-Town America.

All of the people I know that will not vote for him in the fall, (both black and white), don't feel like he has enough experience. We feel that he was judgmental of us before we even went to the polls. I do not appreciate being told that because I don't believe his hope and dreams crap that I am racist! (San Francisco meeting)

I listened to him flat lie and say that he didn't hear Wright say those things, and the next day in his speech, he said he did. I can not and will not believe he didn't know Wright's views.

I have a problem with his twenty year affiliation with that church! The "snippets" that were exposed. . . were purchased on DVD on the church web site. So not only did Wright say those things, they also sold that Anti-American poison for profit to who ever wanted to hear it.

Also, I have a problem with the fact that Senator Obama remained a loyal member of that church until it wasn't politically correct for him to do so.

In his race speech- he called the black community shockingly ignorant, he blamed the welfare system for the erosion of the black family, and said they were ashamed, etc. . . I don't think those comments were very nice either. I feel they were insulting to the black community! As a matter of fact, I would put it right up there with his "Cling/ Antipathy Theory."

I also have a problem with his judgement in the friends that he has kept. He has too many questionable associations for my liking! The news media is blaming Hillary Clinton for his lack of blue-collar white support, when in fact. . .they should blame Senator Obama, his thoughtless mouth, his arrogance, his lack of judgement and experience, as well as his Washington, and media supporters!

You shouldn't classify and judge a group of people that you need to stand behind you! (that is just plain stupid!) If Obama is crammed down our throats, and the Hillary bashing continues, Me and all of the people I know, will vote Mc Cain in the fall. We have had it!

I never thought I would say this, but If he is our nominee without every vote being counted in all fifty states, I will be a life long Republican because my party will have failed us and will have went against the values and processes that I feel make America great!

Union and Four Superdelegates Endorse Barack Obama (2008-05-09 09:54)

Sen. Barack Obama picked four superdelegates today and the endorsement of an important union.

The American Federation of Government Employees and its president John Gage endorsed Obama today.

"Our people, I think, recognize the enthusiasm and vitality behind Senator Obama's campaign," AFGE President John Gage said. Gage is also a superdelegate.

The other superdelegate endorsements are Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Donald Payne (D-NJ); and DNC member Ed Espinosa of California.

Obama now needs only 163 more delegates to clinch the nomination.

X

X

X

X

X

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Four more Superdelegates for Obama (2008-05-09 13:34)

Barack Obama picked up four more superdelegates today for a total of eight so far on Friday. The new endorsements are:

- * The campaign has announced via press release the endorsement of Congresswoman Mazie Hirono of Hawaii.
- * New Mexico add-on super-del Laurie Weahkee, who was selected as an uncommitted super, has announced for Obama.
- * The Obama campaign has announced the support of South Carolina state party vice chair Wilber Lee Jeffcoat.
- * California DNC member Vernon Watkins has endorsed Obama, saying simply: "The election is over, everybody knows that. Obama has won."

Here is what Mazie Hirono had to say about her endorsement:

Today I announce my endorsement of Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States. I do so after watching these historic campaigns unfold across our country, where hundreds of thousands of people participated as never before. It is clear that Americans want our country back on a course of hope and opportunity.

I make my announcement with deep respect and admiration for Hillary Clinton. She is an extraordinary woman. However, it is time to unite the party behind Senator Obama and to use our energy and resources to defeat Senator John McCain. Barack Obama can unite our Party and our country and bring about the positive changes Americans want.

Of course, all of us are especially proud of Senator Obama's deep roots here in our state, and overwhelmingly embraced his candidacy in our recent caucus. His love for Hawaii and understanding of its diversity have given him a foundation for understanding the diversity of our country. I am proud to endorse Senator Obama and I look forward to a winning campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Get Out the Vote in West Virginia (2008-05-09 21:31)

Here's an appeal for help in West Virginia from Field Director Rachel Signman.



Right now, thousands of people in West Virginia are thinking seriously about which way they'll vote when they go to the polls on Tuesday.

You can make their decision easy.

The West Virginia primary is coming up on Tuesday, May 13th, and we have an opportunity to secure some of the final available delegates and move a big step closer to the nomination.

We can't do this without your help — and you can make a difference right from your home.

Our team has put together a list of the potential supporters here in West Virginia whom we most need to reach by Tuesday. Your voice could persuade them to cast their votes for Barack — but only if you use our simple online tool right now and give them a call.

We have thousands of potential supporters to reach, and no time to waste — please pick up the phone and start calling for Barack right away.

Barack had a big night on Tuesday because people like you, not just from North Carolina and Indiana but from states near and far, decided to take action, reach out to potential supporters, and build this movement one voter at a time.

You can carry our momentum forward in West Virginia — and with Election Day just four days away, we need your help now more than ever.

Even if you have never made a call for Barack before, you'll be able to make a difference. Simply log in and get started — it's easy!

I hope you'll make a few calls every day between now and Tuesday — start right now.

Thank you,

Rachel

Rachel Sigman

West Virginia Field Director

Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

(2008-05-09 21:31)

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Rachel Sigman

West Virginia Field Director

Obama for America

More Superdelegates for Obama: 156 to go (2008-05-10 10:08)

The number of delegates that Barack Obama needs to win the nomination shrunk to 156 after House Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) and two Virgin Island superdelegates endorsed the Illinois senator today.

Carole Burke and Kevin Rodriguez of the Virgin Islands threw their support to Obama. Rodriguez said:

While I have great respect for Senator Clinton, today I am announcing my support for Barack Obama. Senator Obama has brought a new generation and energy into the democratic process and the Democratic Party. He has shown he can connect with Democrats, Republicans and Independents across this country, whether we live on the mainland or an island. Senator Obama's judgment to lead, courage to tell the truth and commitment to working men and women make him the best candidate to lead this country forward.

Mitchell made this statement about his endorsement:

I'm proud to support Barack Obama for President. Senator Obama and I worked together last year to improve care for our soldiers and veterans in the wake of the scandal at Walter Reed, and I know that, as President, he will work hard for our men and women in uniform. Like the primary voters of my congressional district, which Senator Obama carried, I am inspired by Barack's vision for America, his ability to unify our country and bring much-needed change to Washington.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: Barack Obama in Oregon (2008-05-11 10:06)

Sen. Barack Obama, in Bend, Oregon, discusses the importance of investing in renewable energy.

[EMBED]

Barack during Friday night's rally in Eugene, Oregon.

[EMBED]

Check out the Flickr slide show of Barack's visit to PV Powered company in Bend, Oregon. Founded in 2003, PV

Powered produces DC to AC solar power inverters encourages adoption of solar power by producing reliable, easy to install inverters. Photovoltaic energy is one of the areas Obama promotes in his green energy plan.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



CA Superdelegate Crystal Strait supports Barack Obama (2008-05-11 15:48)

Today, Crystal Strait, one of the superdelegates I happen to know personally, endorsed Barack Obama. The former president of the California Young Democrats released this statement.

While representing the Young Democrats of America at the DNC, my number one priority is to ensure that young people are fully represented at the polls and in the Party. Barack Obama has shown a real commitment to young voters in his campaign and in response young people have overwhelmingly voted and caucused for Obama in these primary contests. We know that if a young person votes three times in a row for a Party, they become a Party voter for life. We know that because of high youth turnout in 2004 and 2006, 2008 is the third and critical election for young voters. And that's why I know I want to pledge my delegate vote to Barack Obama.

Barack needs 155 more delegates to win the nomination.

[EMBED]

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius talks about Vote for Change, the Obama campaign voter registration drive aimed at getting more people involved in the process.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Vote for Change Video (2008-05-12 09:02)

Here's a new music video in support of Barack Obama but with a focus on taking on John McCain in the fall.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-05-12 09:06)

Across the blogosphere, murmurings can be heard over the possibility of a Obama-Clinton "dream ticket."

Superdelegates Flock to Obama (2008-05-12 11:27)

The superdelegate endorsements are rolling in today for Barack Obama.

So far, Sen. Daniel Akaka and DNC member Dolly Strazar of Hawai'i, Rep. Tom Allen of Maine and Idaho DNC member Keith Roark have declared their support for Obama.

Here is Sen. Akaka's statement.

For more than a year, people have asked me who I plan to endorse for President of the United States. I've waited this long for several reasons. The Democratic campaign began with more than ten declared candidates. As a veteran of more than 30 years on Capitol Hill, I knew each and everyone of them and had worked closely with all. I had no doubt that each of them had the knowledge and ability to lead our country out of the financial and diplomatic chaos that we've experienced for the past eight years.

Having waged a number of campaigns myself, I can tell you they are not easy. Campaigns are tests, and there's no tougher one than running for President. Like many Americans, I've followed the campaign for President closely and with growing interest, eager to see which candidate would articulate a vision for our country, encourage hope and renew faith in our government, and stand to the rigors of a nationwide contest.

After giving it a lot of thought, I've decided that for me, that candidate is Barack Obama.

Rather than echo his supporters or review his platform on health care, the environment, or the war in Iraq, I want to add a different voice to those who believe Senator Obama would make a fine President. He is the antidote we need to cure Washington of the uninspired, partisan politics that has plagued our country far too long.

What makes him uniquely qualified? A March 2008 feature in Vanity Fair magazine offers a clue: "He was born and came of age in Hawaii, the 50th state and in many ways among the freest-thinking, where mixed-race ancestry is ...a given... If Obama comes across as a bit of a softy—if you don't see the toughness or the ambition at first—it may be in part because he spent his formative years in a place where 'Live Aloha' had not yet become a slogan aimed at recapturing a more gracious time, but was simply a way of life."

I have great hope, that in his own way, Barack Obama will achieve what I have been working to accomplish my entire Congressional career, more tolerance and understanding, an appreciation for common goals and interests, rather than an emphasis on our differences.

While I am pledging my support to Senator Obama, I want to make it very clear that I hold both Senator Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton in the highest regard as colleagues and friends. Senator Clinton has campaigned hard and well and I wish her all the best as we move forward. In an example of her leadership and commitment, Senator Clinton has promised that come November, the Democratic Party will be united behind our presidential nominee and I send her my fondest aloha for her courage and selflessness.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack talks on Veterans in Charleston, West Virginia (2008-05-12 17:04)

Sen. Barack Obama talks about veterans in Charleston, West Virginia on May 12, 2008. Barack supports Sen. Jim Webb's proposal for a new GI Bill that would provide veterans a first class education. Sen. John McCain opposes the bill as 'too generous.'

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



West Virginia Votes (2008-05-13 08:11)

You can help get out the vote in West Virginia by calling voters:



And here's poll information for West Virginia from barackobama.com:

West Virginia: Polls Are Open Now

by Christopher Hass,

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 03:36 AM

Right now, people across West Virginia are heading to their polling locations to cast their votes. Polls are open from 6:30 AM. to 7:30 PM, and you can look up your polling location online now. As Barack wrote in an email to West Virginians last night:

For more than a year, you have been dedicated to the idea that when ordinary people come together, we can do extraordinary things.

It's been inspiring to see our movement grow in the Mountain State, and it strengthens my faith that the American people — not just here in West Virginia, but across the country — are ready to stop settling for what the cynics tell us we must accept and start reaching for what's possible.

Tuesday is an opportunity for us to earn some of the last remaining pledged delegates, and take another big step toward the nomination.

If you get out and vote — and bring others to vote too — our movement will continue to grow. The world will know that people like you stood up for a different kind of politics. And real change will be within reach.

As you head to the polls, here's what you'll need to know:

- Polls are open from 6:30 AM. to 7:30 PM Eastern. If you are in line when the polls close at 7:30 PM, you have the right to vote.
- First-time voters who registered by mail should bring a valid and current photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or a government document that shows the name and address of the voter.
- The primary is open to Democrats and Independents. Independents need to request a Democratic ballot to vote in the Democratic primary.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

More Superdelegates Join Obama (2008-05-13 08:47)

Four more superdelegates have endorsed Barack Obama so far today. Indiana Rep. Joe Donnelly, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, DC Superdelegate Anita Bonds and former DNC chief Roy Romer all announced their support for the Illinois senator.

Donnelly said:

"Today, I am pleased to announce my support for Barack Obama. At a time when too many Americans have lost faith in their government, Senator Obama can move us beyond the politics of stalemate and gridlock that has kept us from meeting the monumental challenges of our time: our dependence on foreign oil, a health care gap that leaves tens of millions uninsured, the steady deterioration of our manufacturing base, and an economy that is not working for working people.

"The Democratic Party's strength comes from its core commitment to the American Dream and from a coalition that is ideologically, economically, geographically and ethnically diverse. Barack Obama will stand with working families while building that coalition so that we can change this country, and that's why he's the best choice for America."

And here is Mayor Nagin's statement:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Senator Obama worked to help address the needs of our Gulf Coast communities. As the Gulf Coast continues to rebuild, other cities have faced tragic disasters across this country. Therefore, it is critical that this country's infrastructure and emergency response systems are evaluated and rebuilt to sustain our cities and protect our families. What happened in Louisiana should never happen again.

I have learned firsthand that a unified constituency can make what seems impossible, possible. Senator Obama represents a new generation of leadership, one that can help heal the divisions of the past and unify this country so that together we can build a stronger future.

Since the immediate days following the storm, I have been travelling to our nation's capitol to advocate for policies that aid our rebuilding effort. I know firsthand, we desperately need the leadership of someone committed to changing the system in Washington that can hold us back from moving forward. For these reasons, I endorse Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nominee.

Barack now only needs 146 more delegates to win the nomination.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Crow Nation and Ft. Peck Tribes Endorse Barack Obama (2008-05-13 14:00)

The Crow Nation and Fort Peck Tribes announced their endorsement of Barack Obama today. The Indian Nations are powerful political forces in the states of Montana and South Dakota. Tribal leaders released this statement.

Sen. Obama's leadership qualities and commitment to issues of importance to Indian country distinguish him from his opponents" said Chairman A.T. Stafne of the Ft. Peck Tribes" Our twelve voting members in the Tribal Council passed this endorsement resolution unanimously. I was personally impressed with his commitment to a true government-to-government relationship and his promise to appoint a Native American policy advisor in his White House. "

"Senator Obama understands the challenges facing Native Americans in Montana," said Crow Nation Chairman Carl Venne. "His record as a US Senator shows that he cares about Indian communities. He respects Indian sovereignty and is a strong advocate for Indian healthcare and education.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Wednesday (2008-05-14 11:14)

Barack Obama is campaigning now more for the general election than the primary. He appeared today in Michigan talking about green manufacturing, and last night he discussed the economy in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. These are both important swing states that could go either way this November.

The victory yesterday of a Democrat in a Mississippi Republican stronghold is yet more evidence than many more states may "swing" than would be expected using traditional red state, blue state maps. Hillary Clinton's arguments on electability really do not take into account important new demographic trends.

More Superdelegates for Obama

Today, four more superdelegates have hopped aboard the Obama train.

From the College Democrats of America (CDA), CDA President Lauren Wolfe and CDA Vice President Awais Khaleel announced their support for Obama. Indiana Rep. Pete Visclosky and Democrats Abroad Chair and superdelegate Christine Schon Marques also threw their support to Obama.

[EMBED]

CDA President and Vice President express their support for Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Barack talks about the economy last night in Missouri.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sara - pension comparison (2008-05-14 12:41:00)

I want Barack Obama to be President. He has lived abroad, is aware of cultural diversity and as a young person experienced an active social life... the guy has lived a little!

NARAL endorses Barack Obama (2008-05-14 13:28)

Barack Obama scored a surprise endorsement today when NARAL Pro Choice America announced their support for the Illinois senator.

"Today, we are proud to put our organization's grass-roots and political support behind the pro-choice candidate whom we believe will secure the Democratic nomination and advance to the general election," NARAL's president said in the release. "That candidate is Sen. Obama."

Obama also got another superdelegate today when Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Morgan announced his endorsement.

"Senator Obama embodies the character of a leader that I believe all Oklahomans and all Americans want—principled and strong and ready to change the way business is done in Washington. He understands bringing people together and giving everyone a seat at the table will move our state and our country forward, and I deeply admire that about Senator Obama."

Barack now needs 134.5 more delegates to win the nomination.

[EMBED]

Barack talks about his green manufacturing agenda at Macomb County, Michigan.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



John Edwards to Endorse Barack Obama (2008-05-14 14:30)

The Associated Press is confirming that former senator and presidential candidate John Edwards has endorsed Barack Obama.

Campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Mr. Edwards will join Sen. Obama at his Grand Rapids, Mich., rally where he will announce his endorsement.

Mr. Edwards, who dropped out of the race for the Democratic nomination in January, placed second in the Iowa caucuses and was a favorite of the party's liberal wing.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: John Edwards Joins Barack Obama (2008-05-14 18:25)

Check out the video of John Edwards endorsement of Barack Obama.

[EMBED]

Obama also sent out this email announcing the endorsement.

Friend –

I have some very exciting news.

My good friend John Edwards is endorsing our campaign and joining our movement for change.



We're here in Grand Rapids, Michigan – and if you receive this message in time, you can probably turn on your TV and be part of the moment.

I'm deeply honored by John's support. He is a true leader who dedicated his career to improving the lives of ordinary Americans.

John ran a strong, principled campaign for president, focusing on a number of important issues where we share common ground – universal health care, bringing our troops home from Iraq, and eliminating poverty in America.

The way he ran his campaign was also important. He ran in a way that reflected our shared conviction that we need to fundamentally change politics.

Like our campaign, John's campaign never accepted donations from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs.

Let's welcome John Edwards to the campaign with an outpouring of the kind of grassroots support that is bringing our political process back to the people.

Make a donation of whatever you can afford now, and if you choose, include your own note to Senator Edwards. I'll make sure he gets them:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/johnedwards>

Thank you for all that you're doing,

Barack

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Thursday (2008-05-15 11:46)

Sen. Barack Obama has picked up four more superdelegates and the endorsement of a major union today. The United Steelworkers and superdelegates, Larry Cohen, Communications Workers of America President; Congressmen Henry Waxman, Howard Berman and Jim McDermott all announced their support for Obama. Here is the statement from the United Steelworkers.

When the presidential primary contests began last year, our Union felt strongly that because of Senator John Edwards's deep commitment to working people and because of our shared beliefs, he deserved our strong endorsement. His belief that unfair trade policies must be changed, his commitment to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) to restore workers' rights to freely choose workplace representation, and his proposal for universal health care were widely shared by our members.

Today, by virtue of a unanimous vote of our International Executive Board, we find ourselves once again in agreement with Senator Edwards, this time with his decision last evening to endorse Senator Barack Obama. And thus today, the United Steelworkers enthusiastically endorses Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States.

Senator Obama's call for a significant change of direction amounts to far more than a compelling rallying cry. It is buttressed by his record of consistent support for workers, by his call for sweeping changes to our health care system, by his unflinching support for Employee Free Choice, and by his insistence that America's trade policies must, first and foremost, serve the interests of America's working families.

Senator Obama has shown his commitment to working families by proposing significant investments in the future of American manufacturing, in the revitalization of our nation's infrastructure, and in 21st century clean energy technologies that will lead to significant growth in domestic jobs. He is clearly the candidate who can best lead our nation out of the dark period of economic decline created by the Bush administration's allegiance to Wall Street profiteering at the expense of worker prosperity.

We share Senator Obama's call for significant changes to these bankrupt policies, just as we earlier shared Senator Edwards'. And all of us, including we hope Senator Clinton for whom we have the utmost respect, must now do everything we can to ensure that Barack Obama is the next President of the United States. Now is the time for contention and division to cease, and for us to unite behind the changes for which Senator Obama and our members are calling.

America's workers cannot afford another four years of rehashed Bush administration policies, another four years in which the National Labor Relations Board shills for corporate misconduct, or another four

years of a Secretary of the Treasury who considers it his “job” to bail out Wall Street speculators at the expense of hard working families loosing their homes.

Nor can those of us who are committed to changing the direction of the country afford any more racial profiling of an election, when either Democratic candidate would be far superior to Senator McCain's lock-step commitment to four more years of the broken Bush economy and the broken Bush foreign policies.

We are proud and honored to join Senator Edwards in endorsing Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for his election and for a new age of cooperation among Democrats, Independents and thoughtful Republicans alike in which working Americans are restored to a place of dignity in society and in the American economy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Old College Buddies recall Obama (2008-05-15 11:51)

An interesting read from the Associated Press.

Old friends recall Obama's years in LA, NY

By ADAM GOLDMAN and ROBERT TANNER – 35 minutes ago

NEW YORK (AP) — The way Sohale Siddiqi remembers it, he and his old roommate were walking his pug Charlie on Broadway when a large, scary bum approached them, stomping on the ground near the dog's head.

This was in the 1980s, a time when New York was a fearful place beset by drugs and crime, when the street smart knew that the best way to handle the city's derelicts was to avoid them entirely. But Siddiqi was angry and he confronted the bum, who approached him menacingly.

Until his skinny, Ivy League-educated friend — Barack Obama — intervened.

He “stepped right in between. ... He planted his face firmly in the face of the guy. ‘Hey, hey, hey.’ And the guy backpedaled and we kept walking,” Siddiqi recalls.

There was a time before Obama wore tailored suits — when his wardrobe consisted of \$5 military-surplus khakis and used leather jackets, and he walked the streets of Manhattan for lack of bus fare. It was a time well before the political arena beckoned, when his friends thought he might become a writer or a lawyer, but certainly not the first black man with a real chance to become president of the United States.

Obama spent the six years between 1979 and 1985 at Occidental College in Los Angeles and then in New York at Columbia University and in the workplace. His memoir, “Dreams from My Father,” talks about this time, but not in great detail; Siddiqi, for example, is identified only as “Sadik” — “a short, well-built Pakistani” who smoked marijuana, snorted cocaine and liked to party.

Obama's campaign wouldn't identify “Sadik,” but The Associated Press located him in Seattle, where he raises money for a community theater.

Together, the recollections of Siddiqi and other friends and acquaintances from Obama's college years paint a portrait of the candidate as a young man.

They remember a good student with a sharp mind and unshakable integrity, a young man who already had a passion for the underprivileged. Some described the young Obama's personality as confident to the point of arrogance, a criticism that would emerge decades later, during the campaign.

Not everyone who knew Obama in those years is eager to talk.

Some explained that they feared inadvertently hurting Obama's campaign. Among his friends were Siddiqi and two other Pakistanis, all of them from Karachi; several of those interviewed said the Pakistanis were reluctant to talk for fear of stoking rumors that Obama is a Muslim.

"Obama in the eyes of some right wingers is basically Muslim until proved innocent," says Margot Mifflin, a friend from Occidental who is now a journalism professor at New York's Lehman College. "It's partly the Muslim factor by association and partly the fear of something being twisted."

The young man Mifflin remembers was "an unpretentious, down to earth, solidly middle-class guy who seemed somewhat more sophisticated than the average college student. He was slightly reserved and deliberate in a way that I sometimes thought betrayed an uncertainty."

But another former Oxy classmate, Robert McCrary, now general manager of a contract sewing company, saw him differently: "He definitely had a cocky, sometimes arrogant way about him. ... He was not open to others."

Of course, he was only 18 when he arrived at the small liberal arts college nicknamed "Oxy." His freshman roommates were Imad Husain, a Pakistani, who's now a Boston banker, and Paul Carpenter, now a Los Angeles lawyer.

Carpenter recalled Obama as "a good bodysurfer" who had "a funky red car, a Fiat," and who also played intramurals — flag football, tennis and water polo. "He was an athletic guy. He was gifted in that regard," said Carpenter. He also remembered Obama being "super bright. He could get through the course work in a fraction of the time it took me."

Obama had an international circle of friends — "a real eclectic sort of group," says Vinai Thummalapally, who himself came from Hyderabad, India.

As a freshman, he quickly became friends with Mohammed Hasan Chandoo and Wahid Hamid, two wealthy Pakistanis. There were others, Thummalapally recalls: a French student and both black and white Americans, including Jon K. Mitchell, who later played bass for country-swing band Asleep at the Wheel (Mitchell remembers that Obama wore puka shell necklaces all the time, though they were not in style, and that "we let it slide because he spent a lot of time growing up in Hawaii.")

The friends got together often to watch basketball games — they were Lakers fans — and eat the southern Indian food that Thummalapally cooked with his cousin.

There was serious talk, too. Obama had concerns about U.S. foreign policy — including the failed hostage rescue mission in Iran under Jimmy Carter, and American support of the Contras in Latin America.

Thummalapally lived with Obama the summer of 1980. The two ran together daily, three miles in the early morning, often chatting about their dreams. Thummalapally wanted to start a business back home; Obama talked about helping people.

"I want to get into public service," he recalls Obama saying. "I want to write and help people who are disadvantaged."

— — —

In 1981, Obama transferred from Occidental to Columbia. In between, he traveled to Pakistan — a trip that enhanced his foreign policy qualifications, he maintained in a private speech at a San Francisco fundraiser last month. Obama spent "about three weeks" in Pakistan, traveling with Hamid and staying in Karachi with Chandoo's family, said Bill Burton, Obama's press secretary.

"He was clearly shocked by the economic disparity he saw in Pakistan. He couldn't get over the sight of rural peasants bowing to the wealthy landowners they worked for as they passed," says Margot Mifflin, who makes a brief appearance in Obama's memoir.

When Obama arrived in New York, he already knew Siddiqi — a friend of Chandoo's and Hamid's from Karachi who had visited Los Angeles. Looking back, Siddiqi acknowledges that he and Obama were an odd couple. Siddiqi would mock Obama's idealism — he just wanted to make a lot of money and buy things, while Obama wanted to help the poor.

"At that age, I thought he was a saint and a square, and he took himself too seriously," Siddiqi said. "I would ask him why he was so serious. He was genuinely concerned with the plight of the poor. He'd give me lectures, which I found very boring. He must have found me very irritating."

Siddiqi offered the most expansive account of Obama as a young man.

"We were both very lost. We were both alienated, although he might not put it that way. He arrived disheveled and without a place to stay," said Siddiqi, who at the time worked as a waiter and as a salesman at a boutique.

The Obama campaign declined to discuss Obama's time at Columbia and his friendships in general. It won't, for example, release his transcript or name his friends. It did, however, list five locations where Obama lived during his four years here: three on Manhattan's Upper West Side and two in Brooklyn — one in Park Slope, the other in Brooklyn Heights. His memoir mentions two others on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

In about 1982, Siddiqi and Obama got an apartment at a sixth-floor walkup on East 94th Street. Siddiqi managed to get the apartment thanks to subterfuge.

"We didn't have a chance in hell of getting this apartment unless we fabricated the lease application," Siddiqi said.

Siddiqi fudged his credentials, saying he had a high-paying job at a catering company, but Obama "wanted no part of it. He put down the truth."

The apartment was "a slum of a place" in a drug-ridden neighborhood filled with gunshots, he said. "It wasn't a comfortable existence. We were slumming it." What little furniture they had was found on the street, and guests would have to hold their dinner plates in their laps.

While Obama has acknowledged using marijuana and cocaine during high school in Hawaii, he writes in the memoir that he stopped using soon after his arrival in New York. His roommate had no such scruples. But Siddiqi says that during their time together here, Obama always refused his offers of drugs.

In his memoir and in interviews, Obama has said he got serious and buckled down in New York. "I didn't socialize that much. I was like a monk," he said in a 2005 Columbia alumni magazine interview. He told biographer David Mendell: "For about two years there, I was just painfully alone and really not focused on anything, except maybe thinking a lot."

In his memoir, Obama recalls fasting on Sunday; Siddiqi says Obama was a follower of comedian-activist Dick Gregory's vegetarian diet. "I think self-deprivation was his schtick, denying himself pleasure, good food and all of that."

But it wasn't exactly an ascetic life. There was plenty of time for reading (Gabriel Garcia Marquez, V.S. Naipaul) and listening to music (Van Morrison, the Ohio Players, Bob Dylan). The two, along with others, went out for nights on the town. "He wasn't entirely a hermit," Siddiqi said.

Siddiqi said his female friends thought Obama was "a hunk."

"We were always competing," he said. "You know how it is. You go to a bar and you try hitting on the girls. He had a lot more success. I wouldn't out-compete him in picking up girls, that's for sure."

Obama was a tolerant roommate. Siddiqi's mother, who had never been around a black man, came to visit and she was rude; Obama was nothing but polite. Siddiqi himself could be intemperate — he called Obama an Uncle Tom, but "he was really patient. I'm surprised he suffered me."

Finally, their relationship started to fray. "I was partying all the time. I was disrupting his studies," Siddiqi said. Obama moved out.

In July 1985, after spending two years as a writer for a business newsletter and as a coordinator at City College in Harlem for an environmental and consumer advocacy group, Obama left New York for Chicago — where he found a job, a wife and, eventually, a political career.

— — —
Andrew Roth knew Obama at Occidental and in New York. He speaks bluntly: "The thought, believe me, never crossed my mind that he would be our first black president."

And yet, here he is, on the brink of the Democratic nomination. And he's gotten there with the help of some of those friends from so long ago.

Neither Hamid nor Chandoo would be interviewed for this story; Hamid is now a top executive at Pepsico in New York, and Chandoo is a self-employed financial consultant in the New York area.

Both have each contributed the maximum \$2,300 to Obama's campaign, and records indicate each has joined an Asian-American council that supports his run for president. Both also are listed on Obama's campaign Web site as being among his top fundraisers, each bringing in between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in contributions from their networks of friends.

Both also attended Obama's wedding in 1992, according to published reports and other friends.

Thummalapally has stayed in contact with Obama, too, visiting him in New York, attending his wedding in 1992 and joining him in Springfield, Ill., for the Feb. 10, 2007, announcement of Obama's run for the White House.

President of a CD and DVD manufacturing company in Colorado Springs, Colo., Thummalapally also is listed as a top fundraiser on the campaign Web site.

Siddiqi has not kept in touch. His has been a difficult road; years after his time with Obama, Siddiqi says, he became addicted to cocaine and lost his business.

But when he needed help during his recovery, Obama — the roommate he drove away with his partying, the man he always suspected of looking down at him — gave him a job reference.

So yes, he's an Obama man, too. Witness the message on his answering machine:

"My name is Hal Siddiqi, and I approve of this message. Vote for peace, vote for hope, vote for change, and vote for Obama."

Associated Press writers Deborah Hastings in New York, Justin Pritchard in Los Angeles, Gene Johnson in Seattle, and AP researchers Judith Ausubel and Barbara Sambriski contributed to this story.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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New Superdelegate – 120.5 to go (2008-05-16 09:22)

Yesterday, Barack picked up an extra pledge delegate in North Carolina after the final tally there, and seven of John Edwards pledged delegates. Today, so far, Rep. Pete Stark of California has endorsed Barack among the

superdelegates. The campaign needs 120.5 more delegates to win the nomination. Only 24 pledged delegates are needed for Barack to clinch a majority in that all-important category, and he should garner those delegates on May 20 when both Oregon and Kentucky vote. Here is Congressman Stark's statement:

"Senator Barack Obama has captured the imagination of Americans in a way we've not seen for decades. He's inspired millions of young people to register to vote and join the ranks of our Democratic Party, he's consistently opposed the war, he advocates universal health care, and he delivers a message that transcends party politics at the same time.

"I have the greatest respect for Senator Clinton and for her many years of service, but I believe the time has come to unify our party. The outcome we need in November is a Democratic President. To achieve that, we must turn our focus squarely on Senator McCain and his quest to continue another four years of the failed Bush agenda.

"Barack Obama is the person we need as the next President of the United States of America. I'm excited to help him achieve that goal."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama slams Bush-McCain (2008-05-16 12:14)

Not unpredictably, the Republicans are attacking the likely Democratic nominee on security issues as they want to keep voters minds off the economy. They want to talk about terrorists without reminding people too much about the quagmire in Iraq.

Barack Obama responded today to the attacks by George W. Bush and John McCain questioning the Illinois senator's willingness to negotiate with nation's like Iran.

[EMBED]

If you would like to hit back against these types of negative attacks, consider donating to the Obama campaign.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama slams Bush-McCain (2008-05-16 12:14)

Not unpredictably, the Republicans

Barry O'Bomber: Among nation's 25 'fittest guys' (2008-05-16 17:20)

The upcoming edition of Men's Fitness Magazine out on May 19, is rating Barack Obama as one of the 25 'fittest guys' in the nation.

"It takes a certain stamina to endure months of 16-hour days in pursuit of the land's highest office. Obama is not the first politician dedicated to fitness, but the Illinois senator starts every day with a morning workout, whether it's machines at the hotel gym or a brisk 45-minute run. He's also quit smoking. Obama can be excused for enjoying the occasional state-fair corn dog because he mostly stays away from fatty foods. He's also, as we've seen, a bit of a baller. Nicknamed "Barry O'Bomber" for his jump shot, the former high school hoopster now releases stress during pickup games—including one on every primary day. "He's wiry-looking but actually pretty strong," former Duke player and Obama staffer Reggie Love has said. "And he hates losing. He plays hard." Now that we know."

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Charlene (2008-05-16 21:35:00)

Okay.. I've got the argument down that Obama is the "candidate for change" and I do wish I could believe that if he were to be elected that he wouldn't be able to turn his back to communities of color because he has experienced the impact of systemic racism in his everyday life...

But I still think that even if Obama was the PERFECT candidate for President, we're still focusing on creating change in unsustainable ways. The movement that is happening as a result of people's dissatisfaction with the current Administration is the movement of the people mobilized to create change. That change does not come in a leader, because this will die when s/he is gone.

Real, sustainable social movements come from the people in their own communities. We can't see Obama as the candidate for "change" - we need to see the people as the ones creating the change in the first place.

I understand the desire to push Obama above Hillary in this race - he's obviously the more "liberal" candidate. BUT, Obama's election can't be the goal of a movement, especially when he is so "off" on countless issues (check out Z Magazine's article, "The Obama Illusion").

(2008-05-16 17:20)

The upcoming edition of Men's Fitness Magazine out on May 19, is rating Barack Obama as one of the 25 fittest

(2008-05-16 17:20)

The upcoming edition of Men's Fitness Magazine out on May 19, is rating Barack Obama is one of the 25 fittest

(2008-05-16 17:20)

According to the upcoming edition of Men's Fitness Magazine out on May 19, Barack Obama is one of the 25 fittest

Obama and the Swing States (2008-05-17 09:13)

There's been a lot of discussion recently about swing state strategy in the general election.

A couple of things to note. It is often difficult if not impossible to predict which state will actually "swing" in any election. Historical analysis shows that the swing state map tends to change dramatically in cycles of about every three presidential elections.

Also, in election cycles in which there is a general "kick the bums out" mentality among the electorate, it is doubly hard to predict swing states. This is a time when the out of favor party can often lose even in traditional strongholds. It is a very good opportunity to make inroads, in this case, for the Democratic Party to make inroads in states that have been voting Republican.

Most of the analysis that I've seen tends to discount the importance of the African American and Latino vote and concentrate mostly on "white working class" voters. I think this is a big mistake.

African American turnout has historically been important for Democratic success in presidential elections for some time now. States like Florida and Michigan often hinge on the turnout out of African Americans.

Two states not often mentioned as swing state possibilities are Louisiana and North Carolina, both potential Democratic wins depending on African American voter registration and mobilization.

We also cannot forget the anti-war crowd when studying voter demographics. This group could also benefit Democrats in states like Oregon, Virginia and North Carolina. Remember Jim Webb won in Virginia on a platform that opposed the Iraq War.

Then there are those states are traditionally Republican but have Democratic governors and/or senators. Many of these are totally ignored in swing state discussions. They include Kansas, Nebraska and even John McCain's home state of Arizona. Obviously there are burgeoning Democratic or Democratic-Independent movements in these states or no Democrat could win in a statewide election. Even if the nominee can not win in these states, I think it is necessary to campaign hard in them.

By fighting in these states, not only do you grow the movement, but you keep the Republicans on the defensive. The latter will definitely recognize the potential dangers of losing old strongholds. In the end, also there are always a certain percentage of people who only get motivated when they see things getting done on a local level. They will not buy into the idea that they're states do not count and that they should contribute money only to help in the national effort. This is no problem with the Obama campaign as Barack Obama has roots in community organizing. In the end, this development at the local level ends up netting more also at the national level as I think is demonstrated by Barack's record-smashing fundraising efforts mostly collected from small and first-time donors.

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Barack talks health care in Roseburg, Oregon (2008-05-17 16:54)

Sen. Barack Obama talks about affordable health care in Roseburg, Oregon, contrasting his plan with that of Sen. John McCain.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-05-18 12:32)

Here is an opinion piece that Barack Obama had published today in the Oregon Statesman Journal .

This is a defining moment. At a time when our nation is at war and our American dream is slipping away, we cannot settle for the status quo. In this election, Oregon can stand for change.

I've spent more than two decades working for change from the bottom up. I fought for jobs as an organizer in Chicago when the local steel plant closed. I stood up as a civil-rights lawyer for people who were denied opportunity. I helped expand health care to hundreds of thousands and gave a tax cut to working people in Illinois. I opposed this war in Iraq from the beginning, and when I got to Washington I stood up to the special interests to help pass the most far-reaching lobbying reform since Watergate.

I chose to run for president because I believe that the size of our challenges had outgrown the capacity of our broken politics to solve them. We cannot afford four more years of the same divisive fights in Washington that are more about scoring points than solving problems. We're not going to make progress if we continue to have a system driven by special interests.

We need to restore fairness to our economy. When I'm president, we'll give a tax cut to 1.8 million hardworking Oregonians and help struggling families keep their homes. We'll ensure that the 615,000 Oregonians who currently lack health insurance are covered and cut the cost of a typical family's premiums by as much as \$2,500 per year. We'll create a \$4,000 annual tax credit to help Oregon students cope with tuitions that have increased 27.5 percent since 1999.

And we'll turn the page on more than two decades of trade and economic policies that have favored Wall Street over Main Street. It's time to stop giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas and start giving them to companies that create jobs here at home.

Oregon has been a national leader in energy independence, passing a renewable portfolio standard, auto-emissions rules and incentives for biofuels development. I will build on Oregon's successes to move America on the path to a cleaner environment. I will devote \$150 billion over 10 years to move us toward energy independence and invest in the green energy jobs of the future.

Oregon deserves a president who understands the unique environmental challenges facing the state. That's why I will develop a meaningful plan to restore decimated salmon stocks with the advice of all stakeholders, including fishers, farmers, tribes, environmentalists and foresters. That's why I will ensure that Oregonians have a say about whether and where we place onshore liquefied natural gas facilities in the state.

That's why I support county timber payments and will work with the Oregon congressional delegation to find a comprehensive, long-term solution that will provide Oregon communities the resources they need to invest in a strong education system and create a sustainable economy. And that's why I will work with Oregonians to develop a common-sense plan to conserve Oregon's woodlands.

Oregon knows we need less tough talk and more sound judgment on national security. When I am president, I will end a war in Iraq that I opposed from the start, give our troops and military families the support they have earned, and finish the fight in Afghanistan.

With a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, I know that my story is only possible in America. My family didn't have much when I was growing up, but they gave me love, a good education and hope — hope that in this country, no dream is beyond our grasp if we reach for it, and fight for it, and work for it. And the reason I'm running for president is to put the American dream within reach for every family in Oregon and in this country.

- Barack Obama



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Portland: Mother of All Rallies (2008-05-18 21:01)

The largest crowd for a presidential rally ever, estimated at 75,000, gathered in support of Barack Obama in Portland, Oregon today. Check out the pictures from barackobama.com .





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More Portland Pics (2008-05-18 22:17)

More pics of the sea of supporters at today's Portland rally. Now do all these people drive a Prius?



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Barack Obama talks Social Security in Gresham, Oregon (2008-05-19 08:28)

Barack Obama talks about preserving social security and cutting taxes on social security for those who make less than \$50,000, at a seniors town hall meeting in Gresham, Oregon yesterday.

[EMBED]

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DAN CLEMENTS (2008-05-19 11:03:00)

This is Constitution Party presidential nominee Chuck Baldwin's stance on SS:

The Constitution grants no authority to the federal government to administrate a Social Security system. The Constitution Party advocates phasing out the entire Social Security program, while continuing to meet the obligations already incurred under the

system. Until the current Social Security system can be responsibly phased out, we propose that:

- The Social Security tax is not a "rainy day" fund which politicians can pirate, or from which they can borrow to cover their errors and pay for their excesses.
- Individuals who have contributed to Social Security be allowed to withdraw those funds and transfer them into an IRA or similar investments under the control of the individual contributor.
- Any sort of merger between the U.S. Social Security System and that of any foreign country must be banned, so the distribution of benefits will not go to persons who have not qualified for payments under American law as legal residents.
- Earning limitations on persons aged 62 and over be removed, so that they may earn any amount of additional income without placing their benefits at risk.
- Those provisions of the Social Security system which penalize those born during the "notch years" between 1917 and 1926 be repealed, and that such persons be placed on the same benefit schedules as all other beneficiaries.

We support the right of individuals to choose between private retirement and pension programs, either at their place of employment or independently.

We need to start to reign in this out of control government and neither McCain nor Obama are willing to do this!

Stopbarack.blogspot (2008-05-20 18:27:00)

It saddens me to see the "slash and burn" politician Obama has become.

Barack defends Michelle on GMA (2008-05-19 09:08)

Barack Obama defends wife Michelle on Good Morning America against recent GOP attacks.

[EMBED]

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Anonymous (2008-05-19 11:16:00)

He should've elevated the question about whether not if he's a muslim, by asking back So what if he IS a muslim, is there any constitutional reason muslim cannot be president?

Christian here myself but all these silly scares of oh-what-if-he's-muslim-like-a-terrorist is really silly, discrimination based on religion is still discrimination.

Five Superdelegates Join Barack Obama (2008-05-19 17:23)

Five superdelegates endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today.

Washington State Democratic Party Chairman Dwight Pelz, Kansas Democratic Party Chair Larry Gates, Alaska superdelegates Cindy Spanyers and Blake Johnson and West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd announced the support for Barack. Here is the report of Bryd's endorsement from the Charleston Gazette.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., endorsed Barack Obama for president shortly after noon today, focusing on his hope to end the Iraq War.

"As people all across this great nation know, I have been one of the most outspoken opponents of the Bush administration's misguided war in Iraq and its saber rattling around the globe," Byrd said.

He said he had "no intention of involving myself in the Democratic campaign for President in the midst

of West Virginia's primary election. But the stakes this November could not be higher."

Byrd praised both Obama and Hillary Clinton, saying their "integrity, honor, love for this country and strong belief in our Constitution I deeply respect..."

"Barack Obama is a noble-hearted patriot and humble Christian, and he has my full faith and support," Byrd concluded.

Barack in Portland, Oregon

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Kentucky: Polls Are Open Now (2008-05-20 08:01)

Today, Barack Obama should win enough pledged delegates in the Oregon and Kentucky contests to take the majority in the pledged delegate count.

From barackobama.com:

Kentucky: Polls Are Open Now

by Christopher Hass

Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 03:02 AM

Polls in Kentucky are open now until 6:00 PM tonight, and anyone in line by 6:00 PM will be allowed to vote. You can find your polling location now using our online lookup tool.

Here are a few things you should know before you head to the polls today:

- Go to the polls early if you can, and make sure you don't get stuck at work and miss your chance to vote.
- If you are a registered Democrat and will be 18 or older by November 4th, 2008, you can vote in today's Democratic primary.
- All voters must bring an ID or be personally acquainted with the precinct officer. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, a Social Security card, a credit card, or any ID card with both the voter's picture and signature.
- Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you are in line when the polls close at 6:00 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- If you have questions or need a ride to your polling place, please call our voter hotline at 866-675-2008.

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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LADYPROMISE (2008-05-20 21:01:00)
Lady Promise for PRESIDENT!
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/LADYPROMISE

Obama should set the agenda (2008-05-20 08:22)

Superdelegates Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and Iowa Democratic Chairman Scott Brennan endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today.

Barack needs 107 more delegates to win the nomination.

Here is part of Rep. Bordallo's statement.

Today I have pledged my support as a superdelegate to Senator Barack Obama. Senator Obama offers us the leadership needed to address the challenges Guam and our nation will face in the coming years.

Senator Obama is working very closely with Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and other Senate leaders to secure more support for H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. Senator Obama fully understands and supports the efforts to seek full recognition for the patriotism and suffering endured by the people of Guam during enemy occupation in World War II.

Senator Obama has also pledged to help improve Guam's economy, including through opportunities with the military build-up—an issue I have worked very hard on since taking office—and I believe he is the right candidate to help move Guam and our nation forward given the challenges we face in our world today.

Video of Barack Obama at the Crow Nation Reservation in Crow Agency, Montana where he was accepted into the Crow Nation.

[EMBED]

Barack's online interview with BlogHer.

[EMBED]

Another video of the Portland rally.

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Statement from Sen. Barack Obama on Sen. Ted Kennedy (2008-05-20 13:18)

Sen. Barack Obama issued this statement today on the condition of Sen. Ted Kennedy, one of Barack's most prominent and energetic supporters.

Statement from Barack Obama on Sen. Kennedy

by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 12:52 PM

Senator Obama...

Michelle and I were saddened to hear the news about Senator Kennedy's condition today, and we plan on doing whatever we can to support him, Vicki, and the entire Kennedy family during this time. Senator Kennedy has been a fighter for his entire life, and I have no doubt that he will fight as hard as he can to get through this. He has been there for the American people during some of our country's most trying moments, and now that he's facing his own, I ask all Americans to keep him in our thoughts and prayer.

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Barack Wins Oregon, Takes Elected Delegate Majority (2008-05-20 20:05)

Barack Obama has been projected as the winner in Oregon, splitting tonight's contests as Hillary Clinton won in Kentucky.

Importantly, Obama declared in Iowa that the campaign had won the majority of elected pledged delegates. Here is Barack's Iowa speech as prepared for delivery.

You know, there is a spirit that brought us here tonight – a spirit of change, and hope, and possibility. And there are few people in this country who embody that spirit more than our friend and our champion, Senator Edward Kennedy. He has spent his life in service to this country not for the sake of glory or recognition, but because he cares – deeply, in his gut – about the causes of justice, and equality, and opportunity. So many of us here have benefited in some way or another because of the battles he's waged, and some of us are here because of them.

We know he is not well right now, but we also know that he's a fighter. And as he takes on this fight, let us lift his spirits tonight by letting Ted Kennedy know that we are thinking of him, that we are praying for him, that we are standing with him, and that we will be fighting with him every step of the way.

Fifteen months ago, in the depths of winter, it was in this great state where we took the first steps of an unlikely journey to change America.

The skeptics predicted we wouldn't get very far. The cynics dismissed us as a lot of hype and a little too much hope. And by the fall, the pundits in Washington had all but counted us out.

But the people of Iowa had a different idea.

From the very beginning, you knew that this journey wasn't about me or any of the other candidates in this race. It's about whether this country – at this defining moment – will continue down the same road

that has failed us for so long, or whether we will seize this opportunity to take a different path – to forge a different future for the country we love.

That is the question that sent thousands upon thousands of you to high school gyms and VFW halls; to backyards and front porches; to steak fries and JJ dinners, where you spoke about what that future would look like.

You spoke of an America where working families don't have to file for bankruptcy just because a child gets sick; where they don't lose their home because some predatory lender tricks them out of it; where they don't have to sit on the sidelines of the global economy because they couldn't afford the cost of a college education. You spoke of an America where our parents and grandparents don't spend their retirement in poverty because some CEO dumped their pension – an America where we don't just value wealth, but the work and the workers who create it.

You spoke of an America where we don't send our sons and daughters on tour after tour of duty to a war that has cost us thousands of lives and billions of dollars but has not made us safer. You spoke of an America where we match the might of our military with the strength of our diplomacy and the power of our ideals – a nation that is still the beacon of all that is good and all that is possible for humankind.

You spoke of a future where the politics we have in Washington finally reflect the values we hold as Americans – the values you live by here in Iowa: common sense and honesty; generosity and compassion; decency and responsibility. These values don't belong to one class or one region or even one party – they are the values that bind us together as one country.

That is the country I saw in the faces of crowds that would stretch far into the horizon of our heartland – faces of every color, of every age – faces I see here tonight. You are Democrats who are tired of being divided; Republicans who no longer recognize the party that runs Washington; Independents who are hungry for change. You are the young people who've been inspired for the very first time and those not-so-young folks who've been inspired for the first time in a long time. You are veterans and church-goers; sportsmen and students; farmers and factory workers; teachers and business owners who have varied backgrounds and different traditions, but the same simple dreams for your children's future.

Many of you have been disappointed by politics and politicians more times than you can count. You've seen promises broken and good ideas drown in the sea of influence, and point-scoring, and petty bickering that has consumed Washington. And you've been told over and over and over again to be cynical, and doubtful, and even fearful about the possibility that things can ever be different.

And yet, in spite of all the doubt and disappointment – or perhaps because of it – you came out on a cold winter's night in numbers that this country has never seen, and you stood for change. And because you did, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And tonight, in the fullness of spring, with the help of those who stood up from Portland to Louisville, we have returned to Iowa with a majority of delegates elected by the American people, and you have put us within reach of the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

The road here has been long, and that is partly because we've traveled it with one of the most formidable candidates to ever run for this office. In her thirty-five years of public service, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton has never given up on her fight for the American people, and tonight I congratulate her on her victory in Kentucky. We have had our disagreements during this campaign, but we all admire her courage, her commitment and her perseverance. No matter how this primary ends, Senator Clinton has shattered myths and broken barriers and changed the America in which my daughters and yours will come of age.

Some may see the millions upon millions of votes cast for each of us as evidence that our party is divided, but I see it as proof that we have never been more energized and united in our desire to take this country in a new direction. More than anything, we need this unity and this energy in the months to come, because while our primary has been long and hard-fought, the hardest and most important part of our journey still lies ahead.

We face an opponent, John McCain, who arrived in Washington nearly three decades ago as a Vietnam War hero, and earned an admirable reputation for straight talk and occasional independence from his party.

But this year's Republican primary was a contest to see which candidate could out-Bush the other, and that is the contest John McCain won. The Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 % of Americans that once bothered Senator McCain's conscience are now his only economic policy. The Bush health care plan that only helps those who are already healthy and wealthy is now John McCain's answer to the 47 million Americans without insurance and the millions more who can't pay their medical bills. The Bush Iraq policy that asks everything of our troops and nothing of Iraqi politicians is John McCain's policy too, and so is the fear of tough and aggressive diplomacy that has left this country more isolated and less secure than at any time in recent history. The lobbyists who ruled George Bush's Washington are now running John McCain's campaign, and they actually had the nerve to say that the American people won't care about this. Talk about out of touch!

I will leave it up to Senator McCain to explain to the American people whether his policies and positions represent long-held convictions or Washington calculations, but the one thing they don't represent is change.

Change is a tax code that rewards work instead of wealth by cutting taxes for middle-class families, and senior citizens, and struggling homeowners; a tax code that rewards businesses that create good jobs here in America instead of the corporations that ship them overseas. That's what change is.

Change is a health care plan that guarantees insurance to every American who wants; that brings down premiums for every family who needs it; that stops insurance companies from discriminating and denying coverage to those who need it most.

Change is an energy policy that doesn't rely on buddying up to the Saudi Royal Family and then begging them for oil – an energy policy that puts a price on pollution and makes the oil companies invest their record profits in clean, renewable sources of energy that will create five million new jobs and leave our children a safer planet. That's what change is.

Change is giving every child a world-class education by recruiting an army of new teachers with better pay and more support; by promising four years of tuition to any American willing to serve their community and their country; by realizing that the best education starts with parents who turn off the TV, and take away the video games, and read to our children once in awhile.

Change is ending a war that we never should've started and finishing a war against Al Qaeda in Afghanistan that we never should've ignored. Change is facing the threats of the twenty-first century not with bluster, or fear-mongering, or tough talk, but with tough diplomacy, and strong alliances, and confidence in the ideals that have made this nation the last, best hope of Earth. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy.

That is what change is.

That is the choice in this election.

The same question that first led us to Iowa fifteen months ago is the one that has brought us back here tonight; it is the one we will debate from Washington to Florida, from New Hampshire to New Mexico – the question of whether this country, at this moment, will keep doing what we've been doing for four more years, or whether we will take that different path. It is more of the same versus change. It is the past versus the future. It has been asked and answered by generations before us, and now it is our turn to choose.

We will face our share of difficult and uncertain days in the journey ahead. The other side knows they have embraced yesterday's policies and so they will also embrace yesterday's tactics to try and change the subject. They will play on our fears and our doubts and our divisions to distract us from what matters to you and your future.

Well they can take the low road if they want, but it will not lead this country to a better place. And it will not work in this election. It won't work because you won't let it. Not this time. Not this year.

My faith in the decency, and honesty, and generosity of the American people is not based on false hope or blind optimism, but on what I have lived and what I have seen in this very state.

For in the darkest days of this campaign, when we were dismissed by all the polls and all the pundits, I would come to Iowa and see that there was something happening here that the world did not yet understand.

It's what led high school and college students to give up their vacations to stuff envelopes and knock on doors, and why grandparents have spent all their afternoons making phone calls to perfect strangers. It's what led men and women who can barely pay the bills to dig into their savings and write five dollar checks and ten dollar checks, and why young people from all over this country have left their friends and their families for a job that offers little pay and less sleep.

Change is coming to America.

It's the spirit that sent the first patriots to Lexington and Concord and led the defenders of freedom to light the way north on an Underground Railroad. It's what sent my grandfather's generation to beachheads in Normandy, and women to Seneca Falls, and workers to picket lines and factory fences. It's what led all those young men and women who saw beatings and billy clubs on their television screens to leave their homes, and get on buses, and march through the streets of Selma and Montgomery – black and white, rich and poor.

Change is coming to America.

It's what I saw all those years ago on the streets of Chicago when I worked as an organizer – that in the face of joblessness, and hopelessness, and despair, a better day is still possible if there are people willing to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it. That's what I've seen here in Iowa. That's what is happening in America – our journey may be long, our work will be great, but we know in our hearts we are ready for change, we are ready to come together, and in this election, we are ready to believe again. Thank you Iowa, and may God Bless America.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



dp (2008-05-20 21:52:00)

ok so this is the scoop..

this is very cool and I checked out the

B_O on Twitter... now all you out there

WHAT are we going to do if he or 'shillery are elected?/ has history not taught us a lesson ? or have you not been attentive to YOUR history lesson? Do you not understand that these people want to convert us to a MARXIST socialist nation and that BOTH of them are promoting communism? because they both have affiliations with the socialist / communist party !! READ up on it.. google BO and communism and you will see all you need to know, and of course MOST of us elders know all about Shillery and her tactics... PLEASE READ : the 45 steps to communism in America and you will see that you youngsters are subjected to the communist intention to brainwash children from the cradle thru media and education. I fear the immense attraction to OBAMA is much like that of another in history, who did much to the youth of his time.

and his method is used in our society.

Obama/shillery are puppets of a greater plan to create a society of USEFUL IDIOTS. They are LOYALISTS toward that goal and Obama is a masterful propagandist.. he is very talented !

and I appreciate that in him....

I just hope to G-d that you will all wake up before our country is lost to the NEW WORLD ORDER that they are subliminally enticing you to embrace.

When that time arrives in the near future you will all regret it. You will loose nearly everything that our great society has fought for, because we will all belong to ONE collective that created nothing more than worker drones for the economic benefit of those in power.. you own nothing and you are nothing but a dispensable human mechanism that uses resources. Any in defiance are eliminated without question, so as to redistribute the resources you use, to someone else.

It is all plain to read out there... just look at the plan Obama is secretly pushing through the senate right now...

it will cost each household \$8500. in order to fund poor nations (dictators) in an effort to fight poverty.. REDISTRIBUTION of wealth is what he is calling upon us to embrace ! MAKE sacrifices they both tell us will have to happen, FOR THE GREATER GOOD of mankind.....that is communism! It is not benevalance as you are led to believe

it communism in its purity when you are forced to give up for the good of othera collectively... people wake up.. we are being scammed....Mc Cain is another story.. and not a good one .. except he does try to resist the temptation of marketing his brand to compete with the others.... he is a fighter trying to maintain our sovorinty while cowing to the push of the media.... WHAT IS A PERSON TO DO when all the candidates are no better than the other.. ??

We have to see which one will be the lesser to drag faster toward the NEW WORLD ORDER..... CURRENTLY called GLOBALIZATION !!!!!!!it is one in the same .. the means to that end is socialism.. communism.. globalism.

OB/shillery are true socialists...another form of communists.. puppets of the almighty U.N. who is banking on either of them to win because they are the conduit for this global change.. the UN wants the US, as we know it, to END ! and once that happens ,, via the new president, it will come tumbling down FAST...It is already in motion, SEEK and you shall find the answers to the intet of the

UN through our elected officials.

WAKE UP !!!!!!!

Obama News on Wednesday (2008-05-21 11:18)

Sen. Barack Obama picked up the endorsements of the United Mine Workers of America and superdelegate Rep. Joe Courtney giving him only 62 delegates more to go for the nomination.

Here's the statement from UMWA:

We are extremely proud to make this endorsement today. Sen. Obama shares the values of UMWA

members and our families. He understands and will fight for the needs our members have today and the hopes our members have for a secure future for themselves and their families.

Most of all, Sen. Obama will implement the clear change in direction UMWA members—indeed, all American working people—must have if they are to once again move forward and have a true opportunity to realize the American dream. After eight years of being pushed aside by an administration which neither respects nor values the contributions American working families make to our society, we are looking forward with great anticipation to a new era in our nation starting with the inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009.

Today, Barack Obama spoke before 15,000 people in Tampa Bay, Florida. Watch the video.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack Obama in Florida (2008-05-22 09:31)

Barack Obama talks about unity at a Kissimmee, Florida town hall meeting on May 21, 2008.
[EMBED]

Barack speaks on ethics and lobbyists in Tampa Bay, Florida on May 21.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama picks up four superdelegates (2008-05-23 06:03)

Barack Obama added four more superdelegates today reducing the number of delegates he needs to win the nomination to 58.

Congressman Dennis Cardoza of California, a former Clinton supporter, announced his support for Obama today: “While I continue to greatly respect and admire Senator Clinton and feel she has made history with her campaign, I believe that Senator Obama will inevitably be our party’s nominee for President. He has proven himself to be a thoughtful, knowledgeable, and inspirational leader and will take America in a new direction, which we desperately need.”

Obama’s campaign also announced the endorsement of California congressman, Jim Costa.

Two former supporters of John Edwards from New Hampshire, State Senator Peter Burling of Cornish and Deborah Nelson of Hanover, plan to announce their switch to Obama at a news conference this morning, the Associated Press reported.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hillary pushed as VP (2008-05-23 10:10)

News reports are circulating that Hillary Clinton supporters, including Bill Clinton, are beginning to push hard for an Obama-Clinton ticket.

CNN reports that some Clinton supporters have made their wished known directly to the Obama camp. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), en. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D), and Clinton campaign national co-chairwoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) are among those who have mentioned an Obama-Clinton ticket recently.

There is even a website, DraftObamaClinton.com, dedicated to promoting such a ticket.

Maybe not surprisingly, there is some resistance to such a movement among Obama's more steadfast or vocal supporters. Those especially who have fought in the trenches may not be particularly warm to the idea and would rather have someone who has been a faithful Obama supporter like themselves.

However, history shows us that often candidates must forget past squabbles to win in November.

Here are a few of the pros and cons of Hillary as a possible VP:

* Hillary obviously has built up a great following that would have broken all records had Barack not been around. She can immediately mobilize probably the great bulk of this following to support an Obama-Clinton ticket. Otherwise, some animosity among the most strident Clinton supporters may be hard to overcome.

Clinton is skilled on the campaign trail along with Bill, and both are proven as capable fundraisers. Right now, the Republican National Committee has about ten times more cash on hand than the Democratic National Committee. So, we cannot just look at John McCain's funds in analyzing campaign cash.

A lot of women are going to be disappointed that Clinton is not on the top of the ticket. This could be remedied somewhat by choosing a woman VP other than Hillary, but maybe not as effectively.

Many people think that Hillary is too much establishment for Obama's change message, but it counts on how you look at it. Obama's message is unity, and he has to start with his own party. One thing that many did not like about the old Clinton triangulation strategy was how "liberals" were locked away in the basement. Change would mean that Obama would not do the same to conservative Democrats, even if some progressives might want a little revenge.

Hillary has some strength among "Reagan Democrats" an area where Obama might be weak, although this has not really been established for the general election. However, to be conservative who else has proven strength among the same demographic across several states?

Having Bill Clinton in the White House may be a problem, but in reality Bill will not be in the White House. Unless he gets an appointment, there should be no reason that Bill Clinton would be present at Cabinet meetings, press conferences, etc. Maybe he will be at occasional functions when spouses are normally present but not during day-to-day operations. Bill has plenty of other things to keep him busy.

Barack must make sure that Hillary knows the role and powers of the vice presidency and will not try to run things behind the scenes like Dick Cheney. Both Hill and Bill must eat humble pie to show they will respect Barack's position as the elected commander-in-chief.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Truth_First (2008-05-23 16:08:00)

Obama is the future.

Hillary is the past.

(2008-05-23 19:37)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama at B'nai Torah Congregation during May 23, 2008.

Barack Obama speaks to Veterans in Sunrise, Florida (2008-05-24 09:27)

Sen. Barack Obama talks to veterans in Sunrise, Broward County, Florida on May 24, 2008. He promises to provide veterans with fitting benefits and to end the war in Iraq. Today, Barack is in Puerto Rico, where voting takes place on June 1, and is also addressing veterans. There are 55 delegates at stake in Puerto Rico.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Video: Vote for Change Drive in NYC (2008-05-24 18:25)

Check out the video of the Vote for Change registration drive in New York City on May 10, 2008.

Vote for Change is an ongoing effort to register and mobilize new voters for the general election in November and beyond.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama Addresses Wesleyan University Graduates (2008-05-25 17:21)

Here's the video of Sen. Barack Obama's commencement address at Wesleyan University on May 25, 2008.

[EMBED]

Barack has picked up three new delegates – Georgia State Party Secretary Stephen Leeds, Wyoming state Rep. W. Patrick Goggles, and former Alaskan Governor Tony Knowles – and needs only 52 more to clinch the nomination. Here is the full text of Barack's address as prepared for delivery.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama
Wesleyan University Commencement
Sunday, May 25th, 2008
Middletown, CT

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, President Roth, for that generous introduction, and congratulations on your first year at the helm of Wesleyan. Congratulations also to the class of 2008, and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your graduation.

I have the distinct honor today of pinch-hitting for one of my personal heroes and a hero to this country, Senator Edward Kennedy. Teddy wanted to be here very much, but as you know, he's had a very long week and is taking some much-needed rest. He called me up a few days ago and I said that I'd be happy to be his stand-in, even if there was no way I could fill his shoes.

I did, however, get the chance to glance at the speech he planned on delivering today, and I'd like to start by passing along a message from him: "To all those praying for my return to good health, I offer my heartfelt thanks. And to any who'd rather have a different result, I say, don't get your hopes up just yet!"

So we know that Ted Kennedy's legendary sense of humor is as strong as ever, and I have no doubt that his equally legendary fighting spirit will carry him through this latest challenge. He is our friend, he is our champion, and we hope and pray for his return to good health.

The topic of his speech today was common for a commencement, but one that nobody could discuss with more authority or inspiration than Ted Kennedy. And that is the topic of service to one's country – a cause that is synonymous with his family's name and their legacy.

I was born the year that his brother John called a generation of Americans to ask their country what they could do. And I came of age at a time when they did it. They were the Peace Corps volunteers who won a generation of goodwill toward America at a time when America's ideals were challenged. They were the teenagers and college students, not much older than you, who watched the Civil Rights Movement unfold on their television sets; who saw the dogs and the fire hoses and the footage of marchers beaten within an inch of their lives; who knew it was probably smarter and safer to stay at home, but still decided to take those Freedom Rides down south – who still decided to march. And because they did, they changed the world.

I bring this up because today, you are about to enter a world that makes it easy to get caught up in the notion that there are actually two different stories at work in our lives.

The first is the story of our everyday cares and concerns – the responsibilities we have to our jobs and our families – the bustle and busyness of what happens in our own life. And the second is the story of what happens in the life of our country – of what happens in the wider world. It's the story you see when you catch a glimpse of the day's headlines or turn on the news at night – a story of big challenges like war and recession; hunger and climate change; injustice and inequality. It's a story that can sometimes seem distant and separate from our own – a destiny to be shaped by forces beyond our control.

And yet, the history of this nation tells us this isn't so. It tells us that we are a people whose destiny has never been written for us, but by us – by generations of men and women, young and old, who have always believed that their story and the American story are not separate, but shared. And for more than two centuries, they have served this country in ways that have forever enriched both.

I say this to you as someone who couldn't be standing here today if not for the service of others, and wouldn't be standing here today if not for the purpose that service gave my own life.

You see, I spent much of my childhood adrift. My father left my mother and I when I was two. When my mother remarried, I lived in Indonesia for a time, but was mostly raised in Hawaii by her and my

grandparents from Kansas. My teenage years were filled with more than the usual dose of adolescent rebellion, and I'll admit that I didn't always take myself or my studies very seriously. I realize that none of you can probably relate to this, but there were many times when I wasn't sure where I was going, or what I would do.

But during my first two years of college, perhaps because the values my mother had taught me –hard work, honesty, empathy – had resurfaced after a long hibernation; or perhaps because of the example of wonderful teachers and lasting friends, I began to notice a world beyond myself. I became active in the movement to oppose the apartheid regime of South Africa. I began following the debates in this country about poverty and health care. So that by the time I graduated from college, I was possessed with a crazy idea – that I would work at a grassroots level to bring about change.

I wrote letters to every organization in the country I could think of. And one day, a small group of churches on the South Side of Chicago offered me a job to come work as a community organizer in neighborhoods that had been devastated by steel plant closings. My mother and grandparents wanted me to go to law school. My friends were applying to jobs on Wall Street. Meanwhile, this organization offered me \$12,000 a year plus \$2,000 for an old, beat-up car.

And I said yes.

Now, I didn't know a soul in Chicago, and I wasn't sure what this community organizing business was all about. I had always been inspired by stories of the Civil Rights Movement and JFK's call to service, but when I got to the South Side, there were no marches, and no soaring speeches. In the shadow of an empty steel plant, there were just a lot of folks who were struggling. And we didn't get very far at first.

I still remember one of the very first meetings we put together to discuss gang violence with a group of community leaders. We waited and waited for people to show up, and finally, a group of older people walked into the hall. And they sat down. And a little old lady raised her hand and asked, "Is this where the bingo game is?"

It wasn't easy, but eventually, we made progress. Day by day, block by block, we brought the community together, and registered new voters, and set up after school programs, and fought for new jobs, and helped people live lives with some measure of dignity.

But I also began to realize that I wasn't just helping other people. Through service, I found a community that embraced me; citizenship that was meaningful; the direction I'd been seeking. Through service, I discovered how my own improbable story fit into the larger story of America.

Each of you will have the chance to make your own discovery in the years to come. And I say "chance" because you won't have to take it. There's no community service requirement in the real world; no one forcing you to care. You can take your diploma, walk off this stage, and chase only after the big house and the nice suits and all the other things that our money culture says you should by. You can choose to narrow your concerns and live your life in a way that tries to keep your story separate from America's.

But I hope you don't. Not because you have an obligation to those who are less fortunate, though you do have that obligation. Not because you have a debt to all those who helped you get here, though you do have that debt.

It's because you have an obligation to yourself. Because our individual salvation depends on collective salvation. Because thinking only about yourself, fulfilling your immediate wants and needs, betrays a poverty of ambition. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential and discover the role you'll play in writing the next great chapter in America's story

There are so many ways to serve and so much need at this defining moment in our history. You don't have to be a community organizer or do something crazy like run for President. Right here at Wesleyan, many of you have already volunteered at local schools, contributed to United Way, and even started a

program that brings fresh produce to needy families in the area. One hundred and sixty-four graduates of this school have joined the Peace Corps since 2001, and I'm especially proud that two of you are about to leave for my father's homeland of Kenya to bring alternative sources of energy to impoverished areas.

I ask you to seek these opportunities when you leave here, because the future of this country – your future – depends on it. At a time when our security and moral standing depend on winning hearts and minds in the forgotten corners of this world, we need more of you to serve abroad. As President, I intend to grow the Foreign Service, double the Peace Corps over the next few years, and engage the young people of other nations in similar programs, so that we work side by side to take on the common challenges that confront all humanity.

At a time when our ice caps are melting and our oceans are rising, we need you to help lead a green revolution. We still have time to avoid the catastrophic consequences of climate change if we get serious about investing in renewable sources of energy, and if we get a generation of volunteers to work on renewable energy projects, and teach folks about conservation, and help clean up polluted areas; if we send talented engineers and scientists abroad to help developing countries promote clean energy.

At a time when a child in Boston must compete with children in Beijing and Bangalore, we need an army of you to become teachers and principals in schools that this nation cannot afford to give up on. I will pay our educators what they deserve, and give them more support, but I will also ask more of them to be mentors to other teachers, and serve in high-need schools and high-need subject areas like math and science.

At a time when there are children in the city of New Orleans who still spend each night in a lonely trailer, we need more of you to take a weekend or a week off from work, and head down South, and help rebuild. If you can't get the time, volunteer at the local homeless shelter or soup kitchen in your own community. Find an organization that's fighting poverty, or a candidate who promotes policies you believe in, and find a way to help them.

At a time of war, we need you to work for peace. At a time of inequality, we need you to work for opportunity. At a time of so much cynicism and so much doubt, we need you to make us believe again.

Now understand this - believing that change is possible is not the same as being naïve. Go into service with your eyes wide open, for change will not come easily. On the big issues that our nation faces, difficult choices await. We'll have to face some hard truths, and some sacrifice will be required – not only from you individually, but from the nation as a whole.

There is no magic bullet to our energy problems, for example; no perfect energy source - so all of us will have to use the energy sources we have more wisely. Deep-rooted poverty will not be reversed overnight, and will require both money and reform at a time when our federal and state budgets are strapped and Washington is skeptical that reform is possible. Transforming our education system will require not only bold government action, but a change in attitudes among parents and students. Bringing an end to the slaughter in Darfur will involve navigating extremely difficult realities on the ground, even for those with the best of intentions.

And so, should you take the path of service, should you choose to take up one of these causes as your own, know that you'll experience frustrations and failures. Even your successes will be marked by imperfections and unintended consequences. I guarantee you, there will certainly be times when friends or family urge you to pursue more sensible endeavors with more tangible rewards. And there will be times when you are tempted to take their advice.

But I hope you'll remember, during those times of doubt and frustration, that there is nothing naïve about your impulse to change this world. Because all it takes is one act of service – one blow against injustice – to send forth that tiny ripple of hope that Robert Kennedy spoke of.

You know, Ted Kennedy often tells a story about the fifth anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps. He was there, and he asked one of the young Americans why he had chosen to volunteer. And the man

replied, "Because it was the first time someone asked me to do something for my country."

I don't know how many of you have been asked that question, but after today, you have no excuses. I am asking you, and if I should have the honor of serving this nation as President, I will be asking again in the coming years. We may disagree on certain issues and positions, but I believe we can be unified in service to a greater good. I intend to make it a cause of my presidency, and I believe with all my heart that this generation is ready, and eager, and up to the challenge.

We will face our share of cynics and doubters. But we always have. I can still remember a conversation I had with an older man all those years ago just before I left for Chicago. He said, "Barack, I'll give you a bit of advice. Forget this community organizing business and do something that's gonna make you some money. You can't change the world, and people won't appreciate you trying. But you've got a nice voice, so you should think about going into television broadcasting. I'm telling you, you've got a future."

Now, he may have been right about the TV thing, but he was wrong about everything else. For that old man has not seen what I have seen. He has not seen the faces of ordinary people the first time they clear a vacant lot or build a new playground or force an unresponsive leader to provide services to their community. He has not seen the face of a child brighten because of an inspiring teacher or mentor. He has not seen scores of young people educate their parents on issues like Darfur, or mobilize the conscience of a nation around the challenge of climate change. He has not seen lines of men and women that wrap around schools and churches, that stretch block after block just so they could make their voices heard, many for the very first time.

And that old man who didn't believe the world could change – who didn't think one person could make a difference – well he certainly didn't know much about the life of Joseph Kennedy's youngest son.

It is rare in this country of ours that a person exists who has touched the lives of nearly every single American without many of us even realizing it. And yet, because of Ted Kennedy, millions of children can see a doctor when they get sick. Mothers and fathers can leave work to spend time with their newborns. Working Americans are paid higher wages, and compensated for overtime, and can keep their health insurance when they change jobs. They are protected from discrimination in the workplace, and those who are born with disabilities can still get an education, and health care, and fair treatment on the job. Our schools are stronger and our colleges are filled with more Americans who can afford it. And I have a feeling that Ted Kennedy is not done just yet.

But surely, if one man can achieve so much and make such a difference in the lives of so many, then each of us can do our part. Surely, if his service and his story can forever shape America's story, then our collective service can shape the destiny of this generation. At the very least, his living example calls each of us to try. That is all I ask of you on this joyous day of new beginnings; that is what Senator Kennedy asks of you as well, and that is how we will keep so much needed work going, and the cause of justice everlasting, and the dream alive for generations to come. Thank you so much to the class of 2008, and congratulations on your graduation.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-12-31 23:29:05)

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Anonymous (2010-01-02 15:09:31)

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




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<http://www.remetea.ro/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=104860&p=141911>

Anonymous (2010-01-03 06:32:28)

 [url=<http://japanese-garden.org>]-£°[/url]  

Anonymous (2010-01-04 21:55:43)

 [url=<http://japanese-garden.org>]-£°[/url]  

Anonymous (2010-03-15 05:45:19)

It is remarkable, very amusing piece

Term Papers (2010-05-18 00:43:44)

I have been visiting various blogs for my term papers writing research. I have found your blog to be quite useful. Keep updating your blog with valuable information... Regards

Baracky (2008-05-26 07:45)

Here's a video for the holiday.

[EMBED]

And some good news – Barack Obama picked up three more superdelegates early today, all from his original home state of Hawai'i.

Chairman Brian Schatz and vice chairwoman Kari Luna say they will support Obama at the national convention. State Democrats chose retired Judge James Burns, also an Obama supporter, as the final superdelegate. (AP)



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's Memorial Day Speech (2008-05-26 19:48)

[EMBED]



Senator Obama delivered these remarks (as prepared) today in Las Cruces, New Mexico...

On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes, our sense of patriotism is particularly strong. Because while we gather here under open skies, we know that far beyond the Organ Mountains – in the streets of Baghdad, and the outskirts of Kabul – America's sons and daughters are sacrificing on our behalf. And our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I speak to you today with deep humility. My grandfather marched in Patton's Army, but I cannot know what it is to walk into battle like so many of you. My grandmother worked on a bomber assembly line, but I cannot know what it is for a family to sacrifice like so many of yours have.

I am the father of two young girls, and I cannot imagine what it is to lose a child. My heart breaks for the families who've lost a loved one.

These are things I cannot know. But there are also some things I do know.

I know that our sadness today is mixed with pride; that those we've lost will be remembered by a grateful nation; and that our presence here today is only possible because your loved ones, America's patriots, were willing to give their lives to defend our nation.

I know that while we may come from different places, cherish different traditions, and have different political beliefs, we all – every one of us – hold in reverence those who've given this country the full measure of their devotion.

And I know that children in New Mexico and across this country look to your children, to your brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and friends – to those we honor today – as a shining example of what's best about America.

Their lives are a model for us all.

What led these men and women to wear their country's uniform? What is it that leads anyone to put aside their own pursuit of life's comforts; to subordinate their own sense of survival, for something bigger – something greater?

Many of those we honor today were so young when they were killed. They had a whole life ahead of them – birthdays and weddings, holidays with children and grandchildren, homes and jobs and happiness of their own. And yet, at one moment or another, they felt the tug, just as generations of Americans did before them. Maybe it was a massacre in a Boston square; or a President's call to save the Union and free the slaves. Maybe it was the day of infamy that awakened a nation to a storm in the Pacific and a

madman's death march across Europe. Or maybe it was the morning they woke up to see our walls of security crumble along with our two largest towers.

Whatever the moment was, when it came and they felt that tug, perhaps it was simply the thought of a mom or a dad, a husband or a wife, or a child not yet born that made this young American think that it was time to go; that made them think "I must serve so that the people I love can live – in happiness, and safety, and freedom."

This sense of service is what America is all about. It is what leads Americans to enter the military. It is what sustains them in the most difficult hours. And it is the safeguard of our security.

You see, America has the greatest military in the history of the world. We have the best training, the most advanced technology, the most sophisticated planning, and the most powerful weapons. And yet, in the end, though each of these things is absolutely critical, the true strength of our military lies someplace else.

It lies in the spirit of America's servicemen and women. No matter whether they faced down fascism or fought for freedom in Korea and Vietnam; liberated Kuwait or stopped ethnic cleansing in the Balkans or serve brilliantly and bravely under our flag today; no matter whether they are black, white, Latino, Asian, or Native American; whether they come from old military families, or are recent immigrants – their stories tell the same truth.

It is not simply their bravery, their insistence on doing their part – whatever the cost – to make America more secure and our world more free. It's not simply an unflinching belief in our highest ideals. It's that in the thick of battle, when their very survival is threatened, America's sons and daughters aren't thinking about themselves, they're thinking about one another; they're risking everything to save not their own lives, but the lives of their fellow soldiers and sailors, airmen and Marines. And when we lose them – in a final act of selflessness and service – we know that they died so that their brothers and sisters, so that our nation, might live.

What makes America's servicemen and women heroes is not just their sense of duty, honor, and country; it's the bigness of their hearts and the breadth of their compassion.

That is what we honor today.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once remarked that "To fight out a war, you must believe something and want something with all your might." The Americans we honor today believed. Sergeant Ryan Jopek believed. Ryan was just weeks away from coming home when he volunteered for a mission to Mosul from which he would never return. His friends remember his easy smile; I remember Ryan because of the bracelet his mother gave me that I wear every day. Next to his name, it reads: "All gave some – he gave all."

It is a living reminder of our obligation as Americans to serve Ryan as well as he served us; as well as the wounded warriors I've had the honor of meeting at Walter Reed have served us; as well as the soldiers at Fort Bliss and the troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world are serving us. That means giving the same priority to building a 21st century VA as to building a 21st century military. It means having zero tolerance for veterans sleeping on our streets. It means bringing home our POWs and MIAs. And it means treating the graves of veterans like the hallowed ground it is and banning protests near funerals.

But it also means something more. It means understanding that what Ryan and so many Americans fought and died for is not a place on a map or a certain kind of people. What they sacrificed for – what they gave all for – is a larger idea – the idea that a nation can be governed by laws, not men; that we can be equal in the eyes of those laws; that we can be free to say what we want, write what we want, and worship as we please; that we can have the right to pursue our own dreams, but the obligation to help our fellow Americans pursue theirs.

So on this day, of all days, let's memorialize our fallen heroes by honoring all who wear our country's uniform; and by completing their work to make America more secure and our world more free. But let's

also do our part – service-member and civilian alike – to live up to the idea that so many of our fellow citizens have consecrated – the idea of America. That is the essence of patriotism. That is the lesson of this solemn day. And that is the task that lies ahead. May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

[EMBED]

New TV ad featuring former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to begin airing tomorrow.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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webservant (2008-05-28 11:38:00)

Hey, I got a question for you... Does Barack Obama see dead people?

Excerpt from his speech: "On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes, and I see many of them here today..."

Is this what he gets for adlibbing his speech writers -or- is there something we should know?

Obama News on Tuesday (2008-05-27 10:58)

Barack Obama received the endorsement today of Wyoming Democratic Party Vice Chair Nancy Drummon. He now needs only 48 more delegates to win the nomination.

Former U.S. senator George McGovern will be hosting an early voting event in South Dakota this Wednesday.



Here is the video of a new TV ad campaign in South Dakota stressing Barack's fight against lobbyist influence in Washington.

[EMBED]

'Achieve' Airs in Montana (2008-05-27 17:23)

Here is Barack Obama's new TV ad campaign for Montana. Entitled "Achieve," the ad addresses the rising cost of living and the difficulty in saving, which is due mainly to the rising price of oil. Barack's energy policy calls for increased energy independence.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Three More Superdelegates Join Barack Obama (2008-05-28 09:18)

Sen. Barack Obama picked up three more superdelegates today – Colorado Democratic Party Chair and superdelegate Pat Waak, Oregon Democratic Party Chair Meredith Wood Smith and Guam Senator and Democrat National Committeeman Ben C. Pangelinan.

Barack now needs 46 more delegates for the nomination.

Here is Pangelinan's statement:

I am honored to cast this most crucial and valuable vote to determine the next President of the United States. It is because of the nature of this vote, that I have taken such deliberate and measured consideration before making my decision" stated the Senator and former Speaker of the Guam Legislature.

While both Democratic candidates will be great for America and great for Guam, Senator Obama is my choice. I believe he is the best candidate to deliver on the promise that is America, for all of America.

In speaking to members of both teams, I have come to trust in Senator Obama's commitment to turning the promises on the issues that are important to the people of Guam, into progress for the people of Guam.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-05-28 09:18)

Sen. Barack Obama picked up three more superdelegates today – Colorado Democratic Party Chair and superdelegate Pat Waak

Battleground States (2008-05-28 10:38)

The focus of the Obama campaign is swinging toward choosing which states to target in November.

Although grassroots operations, including offices, will continue in all states, certain battleground states must be selected where the candidate will spend most of his time, where the most resources and the "A-team" staff personnel will be allocated.

These battleground states are those known as "swing states," where the vote is considered on the borderline between the two candidates.

I've analyzed the potential battleground states based mainly on polls, number of electoral votes per state, demographics, and the general enthusiasm and organization of the campaign in those states that I've witnessed. This

analysis though is tentative because polls are still quite early.

The base of voters that participate in the primaries is different than that of the general election. Many more people should turn out for the latter. Many of these folk probably have not tuned in much yet, and polls will only reflect their name recognition of the candidates. As they begin to more closely examine the candidates, their choices can change quickly and often.

I'm dividing the battleground states into three categories: 1) States to Win Over, 2) States to Defend, 3) Other Battleground States.

The States to Win Over are those where Obama must go on the offensive to win. States to Defend are those where Barack looks strong, and must basically defend his position. The other states are more difficult and/or do not carry sufficient electoral votes. I would probably have the candidate spend from 50 to 80 percent of the time in the first category states with similar resource allocation, and divide the rest of the time and resources between the next two categories. Other states would only be visited for the occasional fundraiser and to keep the troops happy.

The states are listed in order of priority with the number of electoral votes for each state in parenthesis.

States to Win Over

1. Ohio (20)
2. Michigan (17)
3. Wisconsin (10)
4. Missouri (11)

States to Defend

1. Pennsylvania (21)
2. Colorado (9)
3. Iowa (7)
4. New Jersey (15)
5. Oregon (7)

Other Battleground States

1. Virginia (13)
2. New Mexico (5)
3. Nevada (5)
4. Florida (27)
5. New Hampshire (4)
6. North Carolina (15)
7. Georgia (15)

Now again, my opinion on these states could change depending as the situation is quite fluid.

Of course, there are a number of other states where Barack stands a chance of pulling upsets like Louisiana, Kansas, etc., and grassroots efforts there should be supported. Maybe these states will come into play later on during the campaign.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama talks Education in Thornton, Colorado (2008-05-28 15:47)

Barack Obama talks about education at MESA campus in Thornton, Colorado, where all graduating seniors were accepted into college, May 28, 2008.

Many other countries are leaping ahead of America in educating their people.

[EMBED]

Some more good news today as Oregon superdelegate Wayne Kinney endorsed Obama reducing the number of delegates needed for the nomination to 45.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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RBC Meeting: How to Make a Positive Impact this Weekend (2008-05-28 18:32)

From barackobama.com :

On the RBC Meeting: How to Make a Positive Impact this Weekend

by Christopher Hass

, Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 03:36 PM

On Saturday, the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee will meet in Washington D.C. to determine whether Florida and Michigan delegates should be allowed to participate at the Democratic convention in August. We look forward to the meeting proceeding smoothly—and we're asking that our supporters not demonstrate or disrupt the proceedings in any way.

Instead, we're urging supporters from across the region to make a positive impact this weekend by helping out with voter registration and organizational events taking place on Saturday.

Here are just a few of the many going on in Virginia this weekend:

- In Arlington, supporters will meet at the Court House Metro Stop at 10:00 AM on Saturday morning before heading out to register voters throughout the area
- Also in Arlington, Spanish speaking volunteers will be manning a nonpartisan voter registration table at the Arlington Mill Community Center, before heading out to register voters at shopping centers, grocery stores, and other high traffic areas in the neighborhood
- In Clifton, volunteers will be going door-to-door talk to unregistered voters
- In Alexandria, Gloria will be hosting an "Obama Mamas" Women For Obama House Party
- In Norfolk, supporters will be canvassing to register new voters and to recruit new volunteers
- In Manassass, supporters will be registering new voters throughout Prince William County
- In Petersburg, volunteers will be meeting at the public library before heading out to register voters

And in Richmond, Kristen is organizing a series of voter registration events as part of an ambitious, ongoing effort to register 4,000 new voters, with staging locations at:

- Chimborazo Park
- Broad Rock Sports Complex
- Battery Park Pool
- Randolph Pool

There are dozens of grassroots events like these taking place across the country this weekend, and there will be many more in the weeks and months to come. You can search for an event in your own community, or sign up and create your own.

As the attention begins to turn towards the general election, there is no better way to make an impact than by registering new voters and bringing more people into this movement. No matter where you are this weekend, you can connect with people in your own community and continue the work of building a true grassroots political machine, one new voter at a time.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-05-30 13:13:00)

I was asked to attend a meeting to become an "deputized registrar"

How can I get in touch with someone here in Milwaukee?

Thanks

Barack Obama: You vs. Bush-McCain (2008-05-29 07:16)

Here is a message sent out by Barack Obama today. Don't Bush and McCain look cute together ;)

In other news, Oregon superdelegate Gail Rasmussen endorsed Barack today, so there's 44 more delegates to go.

Paul -



Right now you have a unique opportunity to go head-to-head with George W. Bush.

This week, John McCain and George Bush gathered behind closed doors, away from the cameras, to raise money for McCain's campaign.

McCain used Bush to raise a reported \$3.5 million from a group of about 500 Republican contributors.

That's a lot of money that will undoubtedly be used to attack us and make the case to continue George Bush's failed policies.

But I have an idea about how we can match it. And we don't need George Bush.

Right now, you can be the reason that someone decides to take the leap and own a piece of this campaign. If you make a donation today, your gift will match their first donation and double their impact.

You'll see the name and hometown of the person you inspired to give. And you can even choose to exchange a personal note about why you've decided to support a different kind of politics.

Your past support has helped us grow this movement. Please make another donation and double your impact.

Your donation of \$25 will equal \$50 for our cause. Make a matching donation now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

As the presumptive nominee of his party, John McCain has had a three-month head start to build his campaign. In that time, he's made his fundraising strategy clear.

In the words of one reporter, the gala fundraiser with Bush was "part of McCain's delicate effort to find the balance between embracing an unpopular president and taking advantage of his huge continuing draw with well-heeled Republicans."

We'll see more of this dance in the weeks and months ahead, but we already know the steps.

As we prepare to take on John McCain, now is our first chance to show that a grassroots movement of people giving only what they can afford can go toe-to-toe with the Bush-McCain fundraising machine.

And with the last three contests of the Democratic primary coming up in the next five days, the resources we're building right now are an urgent necessity.

Help build our movement by making a matching donation today:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

John McCain can run from the cameras, but he can't hide from the fact that he's aiming to continue George Bush's policies for a disastrous third term.

Let's show that we're ready to take him on.

Thank you,

Barack

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: Michelle Obama visits Puerto Rico (2008-05-29 12:55)

Check out the video of Michelle Obama's visit to Puerto Rico.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Two Texas Superdelegates Join Obama – 41 to go (2008-05-30 07:55)

Two Texas superdelegates – Texas Democratic Party chairman Boyd Richie and Democratic National Committee member Betty Richie – have endorsed Barack Obama today. Only 41 more delegates are needed to gain the nomination. On Sunday, 55 pledged delegates are up for grabs in Puerto Rico, and another 31 on Tuesday in Montana and South Dakota.

Obama Events in South Dakota

May 31 Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

in Rapid City, SD

May 31 Town Hall Meeting with Barack Obama

in Aberdeen, SD

Jun 1 Rally with Barack Obama

in Mitchell, SD

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: TV Ads in Puerto Rico (2008-05-30 13:15)

Here are Barack Obama's television ads airing in Puerto Rico.

Message to Puerto Rico [EMBED]

En Espanol: [EMBED]
"He Understands Us"
[EMBED]

En Espanol: [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack in Great Falls, Montana (2008-05-30 19:25)

Barack Obama in Great Falls, Montana, talks about the differences with John McCain on the Iraq war.
[EMBED]

If you live in Montana, make sure to vote on June 3! Find your polling location here.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Republicans: "Democrats Win Landslide Victory" (2008-05-31 07:23)

Steve Hildebrand of the Obama campaign sent out this email today.



You'll like this.

This morning someone forwarded me an email sent by the arm of the Republican Party that raises money for their Senate candidates.

The subject of the message was "Democrats Win Landslide Victory," and the writer, Republican former Senator Bill Frist, admits: "I have a real fear of waking up to this headline after the elections this fall."

He goes on to explain fears among Washington power brokers about Barack Obama's grassroots support and voter registration efforts.

He's right to be worried - we're bringing new people into the process, and Obama supporters are organizing in communities across the country like never before.

You've gotten their attention by being one of the 1.5 million donors who have gotten us this far. But Frist was raising money ahead of tonight's financial reporting deadline - the same deadline we face.

This is the last opportunity to have your donation counted for May, and the last chance to have a meaningful impact on the final three primary contests.

Will you step up again and make your donation of \$25 count right now?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/maydeadline>

Here's a little bit more from Frist's email:

From: Senator Bill Frist , M.D.
Date: Thu, May 29, 2008 at 3:59 PM
Subject: "Democrats Win Landslide Victory"

Dear Republican Supporter,

I have a real fear of waking up to this headline after the elections this fall. [...]

In key states, news accounts indicate Democrats are outpacing Republicans registering voters. We also know Barack Obama's campaign is utilizing the Internet to raise record amounts of money to support his campaign and Democrats nationally ... all in the hope that new voters and record resources will produce a Democrat landslide victory this fall.

There's so much at risk, and conservatives I talk with from all across the country are feeling the rumblings of "what could be." [...]

[...] I ask for your immediate help in supporting Republican candidates running for U.S. Senate by making a contribution of \$10, \$25, \$50 or even \$100 to the NRSC [...]

What's amazing about this message referencing Barack Obama is that it's not from the McCain campaign. It's not even about the presidential race.

It's about the forces of the status quo, who don't want to change the way Washington works, worried about the prospect of ordinary people taking their rightful place in a political process that is too often dominated by lobbyists and special interests.

They've seen the writing on the wall, and they know that when Barack is the nominee, we're going to continue building a movement for change to elect Barack Obama and bring about change from the bottom up at every level of office.

There are only a few hours left before tonight's reporting deadline, so please give whatever you can now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/maydeadline>

Thank you,

Steve

Steve Hildebrand
Deputy Campaign Manager
Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Lglenn3000 (2008-05-31 12:34:00)

Check out the Obama Boogie Woogie YouTube video my friends and I put together, in support of Obama at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BRqe1b-SsU>.

Anonymous (2008-05-31 19:44:00)

im not good with computer but someone who is should make a video comparison of baghdad bob claiming the infidels were not in baghdad while soldiers were showering in the palace and hillary claiming she has more popular votes and that she will be the nominee

Last Contests Draw Near (2008-05-31 15:08)

The last contests of the primary election are on Sunday (Puerto Rico) and Tuesday (Montana and South Dakota). Much of the attention today, however, has been focused on the RNC meeting of the Democratic National Committee, that will decide the fates of Florida and Michigan. The ruling by this committee, expected shortly, may change the numbers needed to win the nomination.

Here are some slideshows and a video of Barack's stump stops in South Dakota.

Barack visits Mt. Rushmore

[EMBED]

Campaign stop at Rapid City, South Dakota

[EMBED]

Video from Rapid City

[EMBED]

Barack at the Prairie Edge Trading Co. in Rapid City checking out goods made by Northern Plains Indians.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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2.6 June

Obama News On Sunday (2008-06-01 07:44)

People are voting in Puerto Rico today with 55 delegates at stake. Also today, a Nevada superdelegate endorsed Barack Obama .

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LAS VEGAS (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has picked up the support of Nevada superdelegate Yvonne Gates, nudging him closer to the nomination.

The former Clark County Commissioner and member of the national party's Rules Committee told The Associated Press late Saturday that she had been impressed by the Illinois senator's campaign.

"I have been admiring, just from afar, looking at the way they run the campaign. I have been pretty impressed with this operation," she said. "I think he would make a great president."

The RNC ruled favorably toward the Obama position on Florida and Michigan yesterday. I suspect that after Tuesday, we should see many superdelegate holdouts coming out on one side or another. Since Obama will still hold the lead in pledged delegates, we should expect that he will get most of the endorsements.

Here is a video of Barack talking about small businesses in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

[EMBED]

There are two more days until the last contests in Montana and South Dakota on Tuesday. Find out how you can help by clicking on the links below.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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More Video from South Dakota (2008-06-01 13:39)

Barack Obama talks with veterans in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 1, 2008. Unlike John McCain, Barack supports GI Bill-like educational benefits for today's veterans.

[EMBED]

George McGovern in South Dakota talks about the grassroots organization of the Obama campaign.

[EMBED]

Rally with Barack and Michelle Obama

Xcel Energy Center
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Tuesday, June 3rd
Doors Open 7:00 p.m.

Public Entrance: Gates 1 and 3

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are NOT required, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP using the form to the right.

For security reasons, do not bring bags. Please limit personal items. No signs or banners permitted.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-06-01 20:41:00)

Are Larry Sinclair AND his "moma" both legal American citizens?
Just askin'.

Two More Superdelegates – 44 to go (2008-06-02 07:15)

With the last contests of the primary tomorrow, two new superdelegates have endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today bringing the number needed to win the nomination to 44.

Virginia superdelegate Democratic National Committee Member Jerome Wiley Segovia joined Barack saying:

While sharing the valuable international experience of spending a portion of my formative years overseas in a similar fashion as Senator Obama, I am excited to add my support to a campaign that has clearly demonstrated a commitment to an inclusive national field campaign, has shattered all previous campaign fundraising records, and is supportive of alternative sources of energy to begin to solve our energy crisis. I believe that with Senator Obama's leadership the DNC and all Democratic party groups and programs can continue building upon the amazing progress already begun by Governor Dean and his team.

Connecticut Democratic State Party Chairwoman and superdelegate Nancy DiNardo also endorsed Barack today.

Senator Barack Obama has helped to energize thousands upon thousands of Democrats in Connecticut and across the country. He has inspired the electorate and won their confidence by demonstrating sound judgment, strength of spirit, dedication to those in need, and belief in the transforming power of community. Although we are blessed to have two outstanding candidates for the Democratic nomination this year, Senator Obama was the choice of Connecticut Democrats on February 5th, and he is my choice to head the ticket in November.

As Chairwoman of the State Democratic Party, I believe not only is it important for me to reflect the sentiment of our Party, but I also have a responsibility to endorse the candidate who will help unite the many voices of our Party in its commitment to change and to building a secure future for generations to come. Senator Obama offers Connecticut and our country a chance for such unity – at healing the divisions caused by years of war, deficits, and partisan wrangling. He shares Connecticut's and our

nation's concern for building strong communities and re-building our economy ravaged by Republican policies.

More fundamentally, Senator Obama understands the everyday struggles of Americans and is devoted to realizing the vision of a nation in which we and our families, friends and neighbors can earn a decent wage, secure affordable healthcare and housing, send our children to good schools, heat our homes, and breathe clean air. Senator Obama's experience as a community activist and his record in Congress demonstrates his focus on these issues and his ability to effect change without becoming ensnared by and beholden to the political establishment.

Senator Obama has built his campaign on an appeal to the deep-seated goodness of America – the goodness that all Americans intuitively understand. I would encourage every citizen of Connecticut to take a close look at Senator Obama's policies for our State and our great country, and to make the right choice and VOTE OBAMA in November!

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Get Out the Vote in South Dakota (2008-06-02 08:50)

There are 31 delegates at stake tomorrow in South Dakota and Montana. Barack needs 44 more delegates to win the nomination. Here's a post from barackobama.com with information on helping get out the vote in South Dakota.

Help South Dakota Get Out the Vote

by Zachary Scott Edwards

, Monday, June 02, 2008 at 07:52 AM



The intersection of Vote St. and Quest St. goes right through South Dakota. There is only one more day until we vote in South Dakota and the grassroots has mobilized to knock on doors, make the important phone calls, and work to help Get Out the Vote.

If you are in South Dakota, and need to find where to vote tomorrow, click [here](#). You can also call 1-866-675-2008.

This is the crunch time where every minute counts. Our local offices are the best place to go if you want to get involved, but you can also call your nearest office and they can help you find a canvass near you—we need your help today!

KEVN reports...

Obama supporters continue door to door campaign

Volunteers are going door-to-door passing out literature, posting signs, and trying to get the last of the undecided voters on the Illinois Senator's side.

Richard Ptacek says, "There's an opportunity here to clarify some things. I think there are a lot of talking points out there that are not accurate and maybe today when I get out and meet some of these people I can help clarify some of those things or at least get them to look at it a little closer." Richard and his family from Piedmont have decided to spend their Sunday canvassing – hoping to share with others their belief in Obama's ability to change America. Richard Ptacek says, "A lot of times a families politics do divided families. In our case it brings us together. So we're gonna take the time to go to work together to share our experience, strength and hope with others to."

If you are able, please join us for this extremely important day of reaching out to local voters, talking about Barack, and making sure they know where they are voting on Tuesday. We'll provide all of the materials to make it easy, make sure you are comfortable and going out with a canvass buddy, and provide food and drinks to enjoy before and after you go out!

We need every voice speaking loud and clear about the importance of tomorrow's vote in South Dakota—and if you are at home, and ready to make the difference, then please, get started making calls!



Barack talks about honest solutions to the nation's problems in Mitchell, South Dakota.

[EMBED]

Ida Fast Wolf introduces Barack Obama in Rapid City, South Dakota.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Four More Superdelegates for Barack - 41.5 to go (2008-06-02 17:01)

Four more superdelegates endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today.

Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, Michigan Education Association President Lu Battaglieri, Florida Democratic Party Secretary Janee Murphy and Democratic National Committee member David McDonald announced their support for Barack.

Now only 41.5 delegates are needed to clinch the nomination. Earlier in the day, two superdelegates joined the Obama campaign.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama meets with Rite Aid distribution plant workers in Waterford, Michigan
To make calls to South Dakota or Montana, click on the following button.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Superdelegates lined up for Barack Obama (2008-06-03 10:01)

Barack Obama has picked up more superdelegates reducing the total needed to 33. And reportedly dozens more are lined up to endorse either today or tomorrow. These superdelegates, if they come through, together with the pledged delegates that Obama will pick up later today in Montana and South Dakota should put him over the top.

If this happens, Hillary Clinton has two choices. She can release her delegates and supporters and unite them behind Barack. Or she can continue to fight for superdelegates, and even pledged delegates, throughout the summer to the convention in August. Most analysts will agree that if she chooses the latter it possibly could endanger the Democrats chances. By August there will be precious little time to organize the mass effort needed to win in November.

There are conflicting reports as to whether Clinton will concede or not.

The new superdelegates that have joined Obama are House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC) , Rep. Jim Spratt (D-SC), Edwards pledged delegate Tim Moore of South Carolina, Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI-13), Florida Edwards delegate Fred K. McDowell, State Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal, Michigan DNC Member Debbie Dingell , Michigan DNC Member Rick Wiener and Michigan superdelegate Joyce Lalonde.

Here is House Majority Whip James Clyburn's statement.

"Today the primary process draws to a close," said House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-SC, in a statement this morning. "From the beginning, I have made it clear that I would put the Democratic Party's best interest first and remain publicly neutral as this process ran its course, but it is now time to make my preference known. Today I am pledging my delegate vote to Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States."

Clyburn has been officially neutral until yesterday, though he has publicly expressed disappointment at the way Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-NY, and her husband conducted themselves during her campaign.

In addition to praising the "levels of energy and excitement that I have not witnessed since the 1960's," the highest-ranking African-American in Congress also trotted out an electability argument about Obama, perhaps to contrast with Clinton's argument that she is more electable.

"Recent surveys indicate that Senator Obama is by far the most preferred presidential candidate among Democrats and independents," Clyburn said, "and I believe he is the most electable candidate that Democrats can offer. He will be able to dramatically change the electoral map for Democrats which will in turn expand our majorities here in Congress, and help elect more Democrats at the state and local levels. Furthermore, I believe that Senator Obama is the Democrat who can unite our people, help heal our nation's wounds, improve our standing on the world stage, and steer our country in a new direction. What is especially exciting about Senator Obama's candidacy is its attraction to young and independent voters. Our Party cannot hope to continue our recent successes if we don't continue to attract new voters. Senator Obama has demonstrated the ability to draw a new map for Democrats by putting traditionally red states like Colorado, Virginia and North Carolina, and swing states like New Mexico, Missouri and Iowa in play."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-06-03 11:44:00)

Congratulations on handing the election to JOHN McBUSH!

Barack Obama to Clinch Nomination (2008-06-03 14:42)

The official Obama campaign has the number at 16 at its changing constantly. CNN gives the number of delegates Barack Obama needs to win the nomination at 20. Either way, with reliable sources reporting many more endorsements on the way before the day is over and victories expected in Montana and South Dakota, it looks likely that he will clinch the nomination today.

Among those expected to endorse Barack after the polls close tonight, is former president Jimmy Carter.

According to the official Obama tally, the pledged delegates gained tonight should do the job even without further endorsements.

Also a sign that Sen. Hillary Clinton might be ready to concede the race as she is reported to have said she is open to a VP slot.

Just the thought of Clinton on the ticket with Obama sends some supporters into orbit. However, there is no doubt that she has earned the right to be seriously considered based on the large numbers of delegates and supporters she has mustered. There is a great risk of a divided party if this is not handled right.

X

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-06-03 19:55:00)

NO NO NO. I will vote for McCain. I hope Hillary takes you to the mattress In November.

Barack Obama becomes Presumptive Nominee (2008-06-03 21:56)

Sen. Barack Obama clinched the number of delegates needed for the Democratic nomination after a hard-fought race that lasted for a year and a half!

Here is the text of the speech, as prepared for delivery, that he gave tonight in Minnesota at the site of the upcoming Republican convention.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama

Final Primary Night

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2008

St. Paul, Minnesota

As Prepared for Delivery

Tonight, after fifty-four hard-fought contests, our primary season has finally come to an end.

Sixteen months have passed since we first stood together on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. Thousands of miles have been traveled. Millions of voices have been heard. And because of what you said – because you decided that change must come to Washington; because you believed that this year must be different than all the rest; because you chose to listen not to your doubts or your fears but to your greatest hopes and highest aspirations, tonight we mark the end of one historic journey with the beginning of another – a journey that will bring a new and better day to America. Tonight, I can stand before you and say that I will be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

I want to thank every American who stood with us over the course of this campaign – through the good days and the bad; from the snows of Cedar Rapids to the sunshine of Sioux Falls. And tonight I also want to thank the men and woman who took this journey with me as fellow candidates for President.

At this defining moment for our nation, we should be proud that our party put forth one of the most talented, qualified field of individuals ever to run for this office. I have not just competed with them as rivals, I have learned from them as friends, as public servants, and as patriots who love America and are willing to work tirelessly to make this country better. They are leaders of this party, and leaders that America will turn to for years to come.

That is particularly true for the candidate who has traveled further on this journey than anyone else. Senator Hillary Clinton has made history in this campaign not just because she's a woman who has done what no woman has done before, but because she's a leader who inspires millions of Americans with her strength, her courage, and her commitment to the causes that brought us here tonight.

We've certainly had our differences over the last sixteen months. But as someone who's shared a stage with her many times, I can tell you that what gets Hillary Clinton up in the morning – even in the face of tough odds – is exactly what sent her and Bill Clinton to sign up for their first campaign in Texas all those years ago; what sent her to work at the Children's Defense Fund and made her fight for health care as

First Lady; what led her to the United States Senate and fueled her barrier-breaking campaign for the presidency – an unyielding desire to improve the lives of ordinary Americans, no matter how difficult the fight may be. And you can rest assured that when we finally win the battle for universal health care in this country, she will be central to that victory. When we transform our energy policy and lift our children out of poverty, it will be because she worked to help make it happen. Our party and our country are better off because of her, and I am a better candidate for having had the honor to compete with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

There are those who say that this primary has somehow left us weaker and more divided. Well I say that because of this primary, there are millions of Americans who have cast their ballot for the very first time. There are Independents and Republicans who understand that this election isn't just about the party in charge of Washington, it's about the need to change Washington. There are young people, and African-Americans, and Latinos, and women of all ages who have voted in numbers that have broken records and inspired a nation.

All of you chose to support a candidate you believe in deeply. But at the end of the day, we aren't the reason you came out and waited in lines that stretched block after block to make your voice heard. You didn't do that because of me or Senator Clinton or anyone else. You did it because you know in your hearts that at this moment – a moment that will define a generation – we cannot afford to keep doing what we've been doing. We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say – let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America.

In just a few short months, the Republican Party will arrive in St. Paul with a very different agenda. They will come here to nominate John McCain, a man who has served this country heroically. I honor that service, and I respect his many accomplishments, even if he chooses to deny mine. My differences with him are not personal; they are with the policies he has proposed in this campaign.

Because while John McCain can legitimately tout moments of independence from his party in the past, such independence has not been the hallmark of his presidential campaign.

It's not change when John McCain decided to stand with George Bush ninety-five percent of the time, as he did in the Senate last year.

It's not change when he offers four more years of Bush economic policies that have failed to create well-paying jobs, or insure our workers, or help Americans afford the skyrocketing cost of college – policies that have lowered the real incomes of the average American family, widened the gap between Wall Street and Main Street, and left our children with a mountain of debt.

And it's not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians – a policy where all we look for are reasons to stay in Iraq, while we spend billions of dollars a month on a war that isn't making the American people any safer.

So I'll say this – there are many words to describe John McCain's attempt to pass off his embrace of George Bush's policies as bipartisan and new. But change is not one of them.

Change is a foreign policy that doesn't begin and end with a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged. I won't stand here and pretend that there are many good options left in Iraq, but what's not an option is leaving our troops in that country for the next hundred years – especially at a time when our military is overstretched, our nation is isolated, and nearly every other threat to America is being ignored.

We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in – but start leaving we must. It's time for Iraqis to take responsibility for their future. It's time to rebuild our military and give our veterans the care they need and the benefits they deserve when they come home. It's time to refocus our efforts on al Qaeda's leadership and Afghanistan, and rally the world against the common threats of the 21st

century – terrorism and nuclear weapons; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. That's what change is.

Change is realizing that meeting today's threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy – tough, direct diplomacy where the President of the United States isn't afraid to let any petty dictator know where America stands and what we stand for. We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy. That's what the American people want. That's what change is.

Change is building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but the work and workers who created it. It's understanding that the struggles facing working families can't be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs, but by giving a the middle-class a tax break, and investing in our crumbling infrastructure, and transforming how we use energy, and improving our schools, and renewing our commitment to science and innovation. It's understanding that fiscal responsibility and shared prosperity can go hand-in-hand, as they did when Bill Clinton was President.

John McCain has spent a lot of time talking about trips to Iraq in the last few weeks, but maybe if he spent some time taking trips to the cities and towns that have been hardest hit by this economy – cities in Michigan, and Ohio, and right here in Minnesota – he'd understand the kind of change that people are looking for.

Maybe if he went to Iowa and met the student who works the night shift after a full day of class and still can't pay the medical bills for a sister who's ill, he'd understand that she can't afford four more years of a health care plan that only takes care of the healthy and wealthy. She needs us to pass health care plan that guarantees insurance to every American who wants it and brings down premiums for every family who needs it. That's the change we need.

Maybe if he went to Pennsylvania and met the man who lost his job but can't even afford the gas to drive around and look for a new one, he'd understand that we can't afford four more years of our addiction to oil from dictators. That man needs us to pass an energy policy that works with automakers to raise fuel standards, and makes corporations pay for their pollution, and oil companies invest their record profits in a clean energy future – an energy policy that will create millions of new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. That's the change we need.

And maybe if he spent some time in the schools of South Carolina or St. Paul or where he spoke tonight in New Orleans, he'd understand that we can't afford to leave the money behind for No Child Left Behind; that we owe it to our children to invest in early childhood education; to recruit an army of new teachers and give them better pay and more support; to finally decide that in this global economy, the chance to get a college education should not be a privilege for the wealthy few, but the birthright of every American. That's the change we need in America. That's why I'm running for President.

The other side will come here in September and offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. But what you don't deserve is another election that's governed by fear, and innuendo, and division. What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon – that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first.

Despite what the good Senator from Arizona said tonight, I have seen people of differing views and opinions find common cause many times during my two decades in public life, and I have brought many together myself. I've walked arm-in-arm with community leaders on the South Side of Chicago and watched tensions fade as black, white, and Latino fought together for good jobs and good schools. I've sat across the table from law enforcement and civil rights advocates to reform a criminal justice system that sent thirteen innocent people to death row. And I've worked with friends in the other party to provide more children with health insurance and more working families with a tax break; to curb the spread of nu-

clear weapons and ensure that the American people know where their tax dollars are being spent; and to reduce the influence of lobbyists who have all too often set the agenda in Washington.

In our country, I have found that this cooperation happens not because we agree on everything, but because behind all the labels and false divisions and categories that define us; beyond all the petty bickering and point-scoring in Washington, Americans are a decent, generous, compassionate people, united by common challenges and common hopes. And every so often, there are moments which call on that fundamental goodness to make this country great again.

So it was for that band of patriots who declared in a Philadelphia hall the formation of a more perfect union; and for all those who gave on the fields of Gettysburg and Antietam their last full measure of devotion to save that same union.

So it was for the Greatest Generation that conquered fear itself, and liberated a continent from tyranny, and made this country home to untold opportunity and prosperity.

So it was for the workers who stood out on the picket lines; the women who shattered glass ceilings; the children who braved a Selma bridge for freedom's cause.

So it has been for every generation that faced down the greatest challenges and the most improbable odds to leave their children a world that's better, and kinder, and more just.

And so it must be for us.

America, this is our moment. This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love.

The journey will be difficult. The road will be long. I face this challenge with profound humility, and knowledge of my own limitations. But I also face it with limitless faith in the capacity of the American people. Because if we are willing to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it, then I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth. This was the moment – this was the time – when we came together to remake this great nation so that it may always reflect our very best selves, and our highest ideals. Thank you, God Bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Distilling Demographics (2008-06-04 08:57)

One thing to remember about demographics is that you can not apply the results of the primary to the general election. John McCain is not Hillary Clinton.

One easy example to demonstrate this is Obama's performance in the primary among women. One might be tempted to say that Obama is weak among women just looking at the numbers. However, many women were rightfully excited about having the first viable women candidate for president. If such a strong woman candidate was not in the race, Barack probably would have done much better with this demographic.

So, we can not say that Barack Obama will not do well with women against John McCain.

How about "white working class voters?" Let's remember that most of that demographic in the Democratic primary consisted of Democrats . These Democrats have been compared to "Reagan Democrats" recently suggested they are crossover votes. But do Reagan Democrats really still exist, or have they all become independents?

I think the polls and recent elections indicate that Republicans have to worry much more about their own crossing over to Barack Obama than vice a versa.

Not saying that Obama could not use a speech writer whose specializes in reaching working-class crowds. His words, as in his electrifying speech last night after clinching the nomination, appear to be perceived as a bit high brow by some people. He may need to adjust his talking style to match the audience more effectively to win over the bread and butter crowd.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: Victory Speech in St. Paul (2008-06-04 12:09)

Check out Barack Obama's stunning victory speech from last night in St. Paul, Minnesota, which also will host the Republican convention late this summer.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-06-04 18:19:00)

As I watch what is happening in America today I am deeply disturbed. For years, the far left Marxist/ Socialist arm of the democratic party has been seeking to gain control and place their candidate in the executive office.

This is now being accomplished. Barrack Obama is the perfect candidate for their purposes. Obama hid his true agenda in the senate by being conveniently absent on votes that would have easily shown America his far left leaning. He is now distancing himself from those friends and colleagues who are anti-American and Marxist, but his heart is in the same place it has always been.

My fear is that he will ride into office with the votes of African Americans who want to see a black man elected president and young people who do not understand what Marxism and Socialism truly mean to our free enterprise system and our indepedence as a people. How tragic for our youth and a minority group to be used by those who have no intention of making America a stronger Republic or a better democracy. How unfair to black Americans who deserve better and our youth who have not been taught truth in our institutions.

Hillary Clinton to Endorse Barack Obama Friday (2008-06-04 16:03)

MSNBC just reported on air that Sen. Hillary Clinton is suspending her campaign and will endorse Sen. Barack Obama on Friday.

This is big news and will help the Democrats and the Obama campaign go forward.

Earlier in the day, Barack chose a three person team to select a vice presidential running mate consisting of Caroline Kennedy, former Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and longtime Washington insider Jim Johnson.

Barack also received the endorsements of Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen and former Vice President Walter Mondale today.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama Announces New DNC Fundraising Rules (2008-06-05 07:19)

Sen. Barack Obama is announcing new money guidelines for the Democratic National Committee, his camp revealed today.

The DNC will no longer accept money from political action committees (PACs) or federal lobbyists in accordance with Obama's own campaign standards.

"We want the Democratic Party to conform to his standards of openness to reduce the influence of special interests,"

campaign spokeswoman Linda Douglass said today.

Barack is still mulling over whether to accept public financing for the general election campaign. His opponent John McCain challenged Obama to run his campaign with public funds well aware of Barack's fundraising prowess. Accepting public funds would free the Obama campaign from fundraising duties, although most of Barack's money now comes from online donations. This allows him to stay on the campaign trail rather than spend time attending fundraisers.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-06-05 21:05:00)

Time to focus on November. The RNC and McCain will throw everything they have at Obama. Let's make sure we are prepared. Go to Washington2008.com

47 New Endorsements (2008-06-06 07:24)

The Democratic Party is rallying behind by Sen. Barack Obama including former supporters of Hillary Clinton. The latter will announce her support of Obama tomorrow.

From barackobama.com :

Thursday Superdelegate Update: 47 New Endorsements

by HQ Blog

, Thursday, June 05, 2008 at 07:28 PM

Today, the Democratic party continued to unify around Barack Obama. Forty seven new superdelegate endorsements were announced today, including that of Ohio Governor Ted Strickland who had been a active supporter of Senator Hillary Clinton throughout the primary process. Earlier today he released the following comments, explaining his choice...

- Gov. Ted Strickland (OH)

Today, I announce my wholehearted and enthusiastic support for Barack Obama for President of the United States.

Earlier today I talked with Sen. Hillary Clinton. I thanked her for her friendship and the strong effort she put forth in this historic campaign. I pledged to work with her to unify the party and to make sure that Barack Obama wins the presidency.

Ohioans have suffered as a result of the failed policies of the Bush Administration, including job loss as a result of rising fuel prices. Ohioans desperately want real, meaningful change. And I believe Barack Obama will bring that change.

The following superdelegates also endorsed Barack Obama today:

- Rep. Jim Matheson (UT)
- Rep. Jim Inslee (WA)
- Tom Foley (WA)
- Norm Dicks (WA)
- Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa
- Georgia AFL-CIO President Richard Ray
- Sen. Jim Webb (VA)
- Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL)
- Rep. Corrine Brown (FL)
- Rep. Kendrick B. Meek (FL)
- Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)
- The entire NY Congressional Delegation (29 members, led by Rep. Charlie Rangel)
- Virginia Democratic Party Chair Dick Cranwell
- Rep. Bob Rankin (CA)
- Rep. Diana DeGette (CO)
- Rep. Zack Space
- Sen. Sherrod Brown
- Ohio Democratic Party Chair Chris Redfern

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Reasons Not to Accept Public Funding (2008-06-06 12:05)

Although one would think that a publicly-funded campaign fits right into Sen. Barack Obama's agenda, there are good reasons he might want to avoid taking such a route.

First of all, the Republican National Committee (RNC) has raised much more money than its Democratic counterpart, the DNC. A significant amount of this money has come from special interest groups, PACs, lobbyists, etc.

Also, John McCain can't stop independent 527 groups from campaigning on his behalf with special interest money.

So, if Barack accepts public funding at this time, it may put him at a disadvantage in the end.

The Obama campaign sent out an email today illustrating why one has to look past just the numbers from McCain's fundraising efforts.



In the excitement of the past few days, there's some news you may have missed.

John McCain and the Republican National Committee released their fundraising numbers for May, and we've got our work cut out for us.

The McCain campaign raised \$21 million, which will be combined with \$23.7 million raised in partnership with the Republican National Committee.

That's nearly \$45 million dollars in one month – money that will be used to attack Barack Obama and support John McCain's effort to extend the policies of George W. Bush for another four years.

We need to respond quickly and show that we are ready to take on Senator McCain in the general election.

You can help by encouraging a fellow supporter to take the next step and own a piece of this campaign.

Make a donation of \$25 today and match the gift of a first-time donor. You can even choose to exchange a note with them about why you support Barack:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

Even more disturbing than the amount of money John McCain and the RNC have raised is the way they raised it.

They depend on donations from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs. And top officials in McCain's campaign have been asking these donors to write checks and raise money from their clients to the tune of \$50,000 each.

Barack is doing things differently.

This campaign has never accepted donations from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs. And yesterday the Democratic National Committee announced that they will follow the same restriction.

We are going to compete in the general election the same way we have all along – by depending on a movement of more than 1.5 million people giving only what they can afford.

Make a \$25 donation now and help bring a first-time donor into this campaign:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/promise>

I'm sure you've heard that Hillary Clinton is suspending her campaign and announcing her support for

Barack. We all owe Senator Clinton – and her supporters – a great deal of respect for running an incredible campaign and strengthening our party in all 50 states.

But John McCain and his allies are not missing a beat in their campaign to continue the Bush agenda.

As the presumptive nominee, John McCain had a three-month head start to build his party and raise money. But we can't afford to let him have the advantage.

For all his talk of reform, John McCain is willing to rely on huge donations from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs.

We have a historic opportunity to run a new kind of campaign and elect a new kind of leader.

Thank you for your support and for being a part of this movement,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Reaction to Obama Victory Abroad (2008-06-06 18:49)

There have been differing reactions to Barack Obama 's clinching of the Democratic nomination, but on the whole the response appears very positive.

I'll post three articles covering this subject starting with this one.

Overseas, Excitement Over Obama

In Presumptive Nominee, Many See Chance for New Direction and New Attitude



British papers heralded Obama's victory in the Democratic race. Reaction was not enthusiastic everywhere; Israel and China have policy concerns.

(By Kirsty Wigglesworth – Associated Press)

By Kevin Sullivan

Washington Post Foreign Service

Thursday, June 5, 2008; Page A10

LONDON, June 4 – For much of the world, Sen. Barack Obama's victory in the Democratic primaries was a moment to admire the United States at a time when the nation's image abroad has been seriously damaged.

From hundreds of supporters crowded around televisions in rural Kenya, Obama's ancestral homeland, to jubilant Britons writing "WE DID IT!" on the Brits for Barack discussion board on Facebook, people celebrated what they called an important racial and generational milestone for the United States.

"This is close to a miracle. I was certain that some things will not happen in my lifetime," said Sunila Patel, 62, a widow encountered on the streets of New Delhi. "A black president of the U.S. will mean that there will be more American tolerance for people around the world who are different."

The primary race generated unprecedented interest outside the United States, much of it a reflection of a desire for change from the policies of President Bush, who surveys show is deeply unpopular around the globe. At the same time, many people abroad seemed impressed – sometimes even shocked – by the wide-open nature of U.S. democracy, and the history-making race between a woman and a black man.

"The primaries showed that the U.S. is actually the nation we had believed it to be, a place that is open-minded enough to have a woman or an African American as its president," said Minoru Morita, a Tokyo political analyst.

While Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has admirers, especially from her days as first lady, interviews on four continents suggested that Obama is the candidate who has most captured the world's imagination.

"Obama is the exciting image of what we always hoped America was," said Robin Niblett, director of Chatham House, a British foreign policy institute. "We have immensely enjoyed the ride and can't wait for the next phase."

The presumptive Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain, who has extensive overseas experience, is known and respected in much of the world. Interviews suggested that McCain is more popular than Obama in countries such as Israel, where McCain is particularly admired for his hard line against Iran.

"Although no one will admit it, Israeli leaders are worried about Obama," said Eytan Gilboa, a political scientist at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. "The feeling is that this is the time to be tough in foreign policy toward the Middle East, and he's going to be soft."

In China, leaders are widely believed to be wary that a Democratic administration might put up barriers to Chinese exports to the United States.

But elsewhere, people were praising Obama, 46, whose emphasis on using the Internet helped make him better known in more nations than perhaps any U.S. primary candidate in history.

In Kenya, Obama's victory was greeted with unvarnished glee. In Kisumu, close to the home of Obama's late father, hundreds crowded around televisions Wednesday morning to watch Obama's victory speech, chanting "Obama tosha!" – "Obama is enough!"

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hillary Clinton Pledges Support for Barack Obama (2008-06-07 10:30)

Sen. Hillary Clinton enthusiastically endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president in a speech that an Obama strategist called "very generous."

In what must have been a difficult situation, Clinton used Obama campaign slogans like "Yes, we can," calling on her supporters to unite behind the Democratic nominee.

She stated that the road against John McCain and the Republicans will not be easy, but that much change is possible if a Democratic president is elected.

I think it was a good effort on her part, and the Obama website has posted a form asking his supporters to thank Hillary for her endorsement.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Why Hillary will likely be offered VP spot (2008-06-07 12:05)

It's the right thing to do.

It was the right thing for the superdelegates to follow the will of the people rather than to try and figure out who would be the best general election candidate. No one can say for sure what is going to happen in any election. Most of the seasoned pundits, for example, thought that Clinton was the inevitable nominee.

If Hillary had won, the right thing to do would be to offer the job to Barack.

Now she may not want the job. She may not be willing to undergo the vetting process that could require examination of the family's financial records. And of course if something should turn up from such vetting, then all bets are off.

But as Barack said himself, her candidacy opened up future opportunities for his own daughters. Both Hillary and Barack's campaigns smashed barriers for women and African Americans, and really for all minorities, and the fitting way to honor these accomplishments is rather obvious.

Furthermore, Barack's victory was not overwhelming. In close contests like this one, the traditional thing is to take one's opponent as a running mate. Even in the bitter contest between Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, Reagan sucked it up and offered the VP slot to Bush.

Should Barack fail to offer the position to Hillary, and he loses, then we know that many people will ask how he could ignore someone who garnered nearly as many votes as himself especially as she has shown today her willingness to be his surrogate.

Of course, if he chooses her and he still loses, then people will blame it on Hillary and her "baggage" or whatever. But

the argument is noticeably weaker here. Obviously Hillary supporters would not blame Barack for choosing Hillary. While some elder statesman have advised against choosing Hillary, I still think that propriety will probably win over speculation.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wise Owl (2008-06-08 07:34:00)

If I was a citizen of the United States of America I would vote for Obama.

allthings (2008-06-08 20:03:00)

Coming soon, a limited edition framed print of Senator Obama. Only 250 beautifully framed limited edition 10x12 inch prints will be made available at just \$450, including delivery to anywhere in the USA.

Drawn by a nationally recognised artist, these limited edition framed prints are collector's items of the future.

Only 250 will be made available - pre-register your interest by sending an email with "Obama" in the title to me200548@hotmail.com

This does not represent an obligation, but reserves the option to buy when this amazing artwork is released later this month.

Video: Barack in Chicago (2008-06-09 07:52)

Sen. Barack Obama speaks to staff and volunteers at the Chicago headquarters office on June 6, 2008. Obama and his family went on a bicycling trip over the weekend.

[EMBED]

ABC's Nightline looks inside the Obama campaign organization.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama to Target GOP Strongholds (2008-06-09 18:36)

Sen. Barack Obama began a two-week tour of North Carolina today speaking about economic policy in Raleigh.

Earlier, Obama campaigned in Virginia, another southern state that the campaign is targeting. There are only about 20 weeks left until the election in November, so staying two weeks in North Carolina this early shows Obama's belief in his ability to win the state.

The campaign is focusing on registering new voters as part of its effort to win states that normally vote Republican. Other southern states that may be targeted are Missouri and Georgia.

Here is Barack's speech today.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama
Change That Works for You
Monday, June 9th, 2008
Raleigh, North Carolina

As prepared for delivery

Before we begin, I just want to take a minute to thank Senator Clinton for the kind and generous support she offered on Saturday. She ran an historic campaign that shattered barriers on behalf of my daughters and women everywhere who now know there are no limits to their dreams. And more, she inspired millions of women and men with her strength, her courage, and her unyielding commitment to the causes that brought us here today – the hopes and aspirations of working Americans.

Our party and our country are stronger because of the work she has done throughout her life, and I look forward to working with her in these coming months and years to lay out the case for change and set a new course for this country.

I've often said that this election represents a defining moment in our history. On major issues like the war in Iraq or the warming of our planet, the decisions we make in November and over the next few years will shape a generation, if not a century.

That is especially true when it comes to our economy.

We have now lost jobs for five straight months – more than 320,000 since the beginning of this year. Last month we saw the biggest rise in the unemployment rate in more than twenty years. The percentage of homes in foreclosure and late mortgage payments is the highest since the Great Depression. The price of oil has never been higher and set a record on Friday for the largest one-day spike in history. The costs of health care and college tuition and even food have all hit record levels, while family incomes have fallen and the wages of our workers have stayed the same.

Read the full speech

[EMBED]



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-06-09 20:28:00)

Who is with me for the planned July 4th fundraising event?

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4g9f>

Sign up and get the word out!

Bob Tomasso (2008-06-10 10:30:00)

I am a Vietnam Veteran, and I support Barack Obama. I would love to have a bumper sticker that says: "Vietnam Vet for Obama". Anyone have any ideas as to where I can get such a sticker?

Unite For Change (2008-06-10 08:30)

Yesterday, Deputy Campaign Manager Steve Hildebrand announced that the Obama campaign would place staff in all 50 states, the first time this has been done in a generation.

Today, National Voter Contact Director Jon Carson called on Obama supporters to participate in a Unite for Change event on June 28.

✖ Dear Paul,

This has been a 50-state campaign from the very beginning. A year ago this week, our grassroots supporters organized a nationwide canvass in more than 1,000 cities to introduce people to Barack Obama.

Since then, we've had an unprecedented primary season that built grassroots infrastructure in all 50 states – not just for Barack, but for all of the Democratic candidates.

Now it's time to bring all of that energy together for our common cause of change.

All across the country, Democrats, Independents, and even Republicans are tired of the politics of the past and are looking for new solutions to the challenges we're facing.

That's why we're launching a nationwide day of action on June 28th called "Unite for Change" – and asking you to host a Unite for Change meeting in your neighborhood.

In all 50 states, supporters like you – seasoned veterans and first-time volunteers alike – will host house meetings with the express purpose of reaching out and bringing together folks who supported all of the Democratic candidates (and those who are just tuning into the process now).

The goal is to come together and use the common values we share to build a united volunteer organization in your neighborhood that will register new voters and build support locally.

It's going to be an amazing time, and hosting your own event is easy. We'll provide all the tools and resources you'll need.

Learn more and sign up to host a Unite for Change party on June 28th:

<http://my.barackobama.com/unite>

We're heading into a battle against John McCain, and the stakes are higher than ever before.

But the path to victory is as simple as talking to your friends and neighbors.

From the beginning, this campaign has been about ordinary people reaching out and building the bonds of community – empowering one another by coming together to make change.

With the general election approaching, it's more important than ever to keep this momentum going. And there's no better way to make this happen in your community than hosting a Unite for Change event.

You'll gather – not just with Obama supporters, but with anyone who's tired of the politics of the past and ready for something new – to share your stories and lay the plans for how to build this movement locally in the weeks and months ahead.

It requires some responsibility, but don't worry – our team will be here with all the support and resources you need to make your Unite for Change event a big success.

Learn more and sign up to host a party in your community:

<http://my.barackobama.com/unite>

Yesterday, our deputy campaign manager, Steve Hildebrand, announced that this will be the first campaign in a generation to put staff in all 50 states.

It says a lot about our movement – and about the enthusiasm and resources people like you have supplied – that this is possible.

But being in every state will not be enough.

In order to succeed in every community in America, it's going to be up to you to take the lead. Everyone who hopes for real change after November is counting on you.

Thank you,

Jon

Jon Carson

National Voter Contact Director

Obama for America

✖

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2009-08-03 06:03:16)

Obama said "Time for A Change!!" Change....Middle class tax increase to pay the debt.

Wait....wasn't that the last guy in office talking?

Barack Obama on Economy in St. Louis, Missouri (2008-06-10 15:21)

Sen. Barack Obama speaks in St. Louis, Missouri today responding to John McCain's comments on the Obama economic plan.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Ozhinkleberry (2008-06-10 15:40:00)

Check out this musical parody of a Clinton return to the White House. While it definitely warrants a good laugh, I feel that it also illustrates America's desire for change. American politics needs fresh ideas and fresh figures. Besides, while we are still immersed in the intensity of election, a little political humor is always nice to take the edge off. Enjoy!

[http://minimovies.com/film-128295-Welcome %20Back, %20Clinton](http://minimovies.com/film-128295-Welcome%20Back,%20Clinton)

Contacting Voters - Lapel Pins (2008-06-11 09:51)

The summer is a great time for making voter contact and for registering voters either through tabling and attending outdoor events or though more intense direct approaches like canvassing and phone-banking.

Amanda Scott has posted a selection of label pins on the official blog that you can use to show your support for Barack Obama.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Obama News on Wednesday (2008-06-11 20:53)

Women's groups are rallying behind Sen. Barack Obama now that he is the presumptive Democratic nominee. EMILY's List chief Ellen Malcolm and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida participated in a Center for American Progress conference call today urging women to support Sen. Obama.

Barack was in Chicago today as part of his two-week tour of battleground states, where he spoke about protecting consumers.

[EMBED]

Here is the text of his speech in Chicago as prepared for delivery.

Before we begin, I just wanted to say a word about the flooding devastating so many communities. We were scheduled to be holding this event in Iowa, but we decided to cancel it because we didn't want to divert state resources from going to help with flood relief.

My heart goes out to the families in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and across the Midwest, who have been forced to flee their own homes, and leave their businesses and communities behind. Right now, many of them are wondering when they'll be able to return, and what they'll find when they get there. Well, we cannot assure them that their communities will be rebuilt overnight, but we can assure them that they will be rebuilt – because we'll work to ensure that the full resources of our state and federal government are there to help. And I will do everything in my power to see to it that those resources get to the people who need them as swiftly as possible.

You know, over the next two weeks, I'm going to be talking a lot about what we can do to build an economy that works for all Americans. Because for families all across this country, our economy hasn't been working for quite some time. I've met Americans who are doing everything right – who are working that extra shift, or taking on that extra job – but are still struggling just to make ends meet. And a big part of the reason is that they're paying \$4 a gallon for gas, and skyrocketing costs for groceries, health care, and college tuition – at a time when their wages have stayed the same.

As a result, many of them are falling deeper and deeper into debt, and a lot of that debt is being put onto credit cards. Over the past 15 years, average household credit card debt has tripled. The typical family is now nearly \$10,000 in the red. And bankruptcy rates have steadily climbed over the past year.

Now, let's be honest. Part of why our debt crisis is so bad is that some folks are making reckless decisions – racking up big credit card bills by purchasing flat-screen TVs and other luxury goods that they know they can't afford. And they should have to face the consequences of those decisions.

But many more Americans aren't falling into debt because they made an irresponsible decision; they're falling into debt because credit card companies are pushing them over the edge. For too long, credit card companies have been using unfair and deceptive practices to trick Americans into signing agreements they can't afford. The contracts you sign when you get a card have gone from being one page-long a few decades ago to more than thirty pages-long today. And they're often filled with traps and fine print that only a credit card executive could understand. These companies have been crossing the line to boost their bottom line.

But rather than stop this outrage, Washington has let them get away with it. And it's no wonder – because the credit card companies have spent millions in recent years financing political campaigns and lobbying Congress to get laws written to their liking. In the first quarter of this year alone, one such industry group spent nearly \$800,000 on lobbying.

This has to stop. We cannot let the rules of the game continue to be rigged against ordinary Americans. We need a President who will look out for the interests of hardworking families, not just their big campaign donors and corporate allies.

And that will be a real difference in this election, because when it comes to Washington letting credit card companies get away with all this, John McCain has been part of the problem. When he had the chance to help families avoid falling into debt, John McCain sided with the credit card companies. When he had the chance to protect teenagers and college students from deceptive credit card practices, he sided with the credit card companies. And when I fought against the credit card industry's bankruptcy bill that made it harder for working families to climb out of debt, he supported it – and he even opposed exempting families who were only in bankruptcy because of medical expenses they couldn't pay.

Just look at the proposals he's been making on this campaign. He's calling for nearly \$2 trillion in corporate tax cuts over the next decade, but he hasn't even proposed a single measure to protect hardworking Americans from credit card companies that are trying to take advantage of them.

Well, that's not the kind of change that the folks I've met are looking for. They're looking for a President who will fight for them, and restore fairness to our economy. That's the kind of President I'll be. I'll put a middle class tax cut into the pockets of hardworking families – a tax cut that will give 95 % of all families \$1,000 in relief.

I'll eliminate income taxes for seniors making less than \$50,000 a year. And I'll protect the rights of ordinary Americans by cracking down on companies that are trying to deceive them.

That's why back in November, I proposed a plan to help ensure that credit cards don't become the next subprime crisis. It starts with making sure that we have a system that's open and transparent. To help you understand the risks that are involved in signing up for a credit card, I'll create a five-star rating system. That way, Americans can compare credit card companies and avoid those that are stacking the deck against them.

Now, don't get me wrong. We all have a responsibility to pay what we owe. But we have to ensure that the amount we're paying is fair. That's why I've proposed a Credit Card Bill of Rights. The first thing we'll do under this bill of rights is ban unilateral changes to credit card agreements. You should pay the rate you signed up for. If the credit card company wants to raise that rate, you should be able to opt out of the agreement.

Second, we'll ban rate changes on past debt. If a credit card company wants to raise interest rates, then that new, higher rate should apply to the debt you add going forward, not what you already owe. The store can't change the price of what you bought after you bought it and neither should your credit card. Third, we'll ban interest on transaction fees. If you're late in making a payment, you have to pay a late fee. But you shouldn't be paying a fee for paying a fee.

It's time Washington established some rules of the road to level the playing field for hardworking families. It's time we had an economy that worked for companies and consumers alike. That's what my campaign is all about. So the American people will have a clear choice in November: you can choose an approach that sides with the credit card companies when it really counts; or you can choose to finally have a President who looks out for Main Street, not just Wall Street; a President who fights each day to put the American dream within reach for all Americans. And that's the kind of President I intend to be. Thank you.

X

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama Fights Smears Online (2008-06-12 09:30)

The Obama campaign has launched an online tool to fight smears against the Illinois senator.



The page, which can be reached by clicking on the graphic above, lists various smear campaigns, corrects the inaccuracies and allows users to email the true story to their family, friends and associates.

Among the smears addressed are the Michelle Obama "Whitey" tape, Barack as a Muslim and the Pledge of Allegiance/hand over heart controversy.

At the top of each page is a quote from Barack:

What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon – that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Cory (2008-06-12 20:56:00)

A new fundraising project is getting started. Visit obamaproject.info for details.

Obama on Issues – Ethics (2008-06-12 13:04)

From barackobama.com :

Plan to Change Washington

"I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists — and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not run my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am president."

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, November 10, 2007

At a Glance

- Shine the Light on Washington Lobbying
- Shine the Light on Federal Contracts, Tax Breaks and Earmarks

- Bring Americans Back into their Government
- Free the Executive Branch from Special Interest Influence

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

Watch the Video

The Problem

Lobbyists Write National Policies: For example, Vice President Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force of oil and gas lobbyists met secretly to develop national energy policy.

Secrecy Dominates Government Actions: The Bush administration has ignored public disclosure rules and has invoked a legal tool known as the "state secrets" privilege more than any other previous administration to get cases thrown out of civil court.

Wasteful Spending is Out of Control: The current administration has abused its power by handing out contracts without competition to its politically connected friends and supporters. These abuses cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

Barack Obama's Plan

Shine the Light on Washington Lobbying

- **Centralize Ethics and Lobbying Information for Voters:** Obama will create a centralized Internet database of lobbying reports, ethics records, and campaign finance filings in a searchable, sortable and downloadable format.
- **Require Independent Monitoring of Lobbying Laws and Ethics Rules:** Obama will use the power of the presidency to fight for an independent watchdog agency to oversee the investigation of congressional ethics violations so that the public can be assured that ethics complaints will be investigated.
- **Support Campaign Finance Reform:** Obama supports public financing of campaigns combined with free television and radio time as a way to reduce the influence of moneyed special interests. Obama introduced public financing legislation in the Illinois State Senate, and is the only 2008 candidate to have sponsored Senator Russ Feingold's (D-WI) tough bill to reform the presidential public financing system.

Shine the Light on Federal Contracts, Tax Breaks and Earmarks

- **Create a Public "Contracts and Influence" Database:** As president, Obama will create a "contracts and influence" database that will disclose how much federal contractors spend on lobbying, and what contracts they are getting and how well they complete them.
- **Expose Special Interest Tax Breaks to Public Scrutiny:** Barack Obama will ensure that any tax breaks for corporate recipients — or tax earmarks — are also publicly available on the Internet in an easily searchable format.
- **End Abuse of No-Bid Contracts:** Barack Obama will end abuse of no-bid contracts by requiring that nearly all contract orders over \$25,000 be competitively awarded.
- **Sunlight Before Signing:** Too often bills are rushed through Congress and to the president before the public has the opportunity to review them. As president, Obama will not sign any non-emergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House website for five days.

- Shine Light on Earmarks and Pork Barrel Spending: Obama's Transparency and Integrity in Earmarks Act will shed light on all earmarks by disclosing the name of the legislator who asked for each earmark, along with a written justification, 72 hours before they can be approved by the full Senate.


Bring Americans Back into their Government

- Hold 21st Century Fireside Chats: Obama will bring democracy and policy directly to the people by requiring his Cabinet officials to have periodic national broadband townhall meetings to discuss issues before their agencies.
- Make White House Communications Public: Obama will amend executive orders to ensure that communications about regulatory policymaking between persons outside government and all White House staff are disclosed to the public.
- Conduct Regulatory Agency Business in Public: Obama will require his appointees who lead the executive branch departments and rulemaking agencies to conduct the significant business of the agency in public, so that any citizen can see in person or watch on the Internet these debates.
- Release Presidential Records: Obama will nullify the Bush attempts to make the timely release of presidential records more difficult.

Free the Executive Branch from Special Interest Influence

- Close the Revolving Door on Former and Future Employers: No political appointees in an Obama administration will be permitted to work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration.
- Free Career Officials from the Influence of Politics: Obama will issue an executive order asking all new hires at the agencies to sign a form affirming that no political appointee offered them the job solely on the basis of political affiliation or contribution.
- Reform the Political Appointee Process: FEMA Director Michael Brown was not qualified to head the agency, and the result was a disaster for the people of the Gulf Coast. But in an Obama administration, every official will have to rise to the standard of proven excellence in the agency's mission.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

 Read the Plan

Read and Watch the Speech











Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Targeted States: Ohio (2008-06-13 09:13)

One can't revisit the importance of focusing on key swing states enough. The Obama campaign will work in all states to help build the campaign and the party – registering voters, raising money, recruiting volunteers – but it will focus a lot of its persuasion and get out the vote efforts on battleground states.

There are times when no matter how many millions one spends on TV ads, and despite the thousands of dedicated volunteers one fields, that you will still come up short in the end. You can work on these people over the long haul, but for any particular election cycle it pays to target voters who are more open and persuadable.

They identify these 'soft targets' by professional polling and reports from ground workers.

Ohio is one of the swing states with the most available electoral votes. In this primary season, the state had a much larger turnout among Democrats as compared to Republicans.

Primary Turnout in Ohio (2008) 2,233,156 (D)
1,018,865 (R)
3,450,893 (Total)

In the 2006 election, the Democrats romped to victory winning the governorship and seats in the Senate and the House. The local economy has been spiraling down for years now and there is a general dissatisfaction with the Republican Party, which is blamed for the state's woes.

The Real Clear Politics polling average shows Obama slightly ahead in recent polls.

PollDateSampleObama (D)McCain (R)Spread
RCP Average 05/13 - 05/20 - 44.0 42.7 Obama +1.3 SurveyUSA 05/16 - 05/18 600 RV 48 39 Obama +9.0
Quinnipiac 05/13 - 05/20 1244 RV 40 44 McCain +4.0 Rasmussen 05/15 - 05/15 500 LV 44 45 McCain +1.0

We should note that these polls were taken before Hillary Clinton dropped out of the race.

An Akron Buckeye Poll taken in March 2008 showed that Ohioans largely believe that the Democratic nominee will win the general election.

The major issues: "Nearly one-half of all Ohioans said that economic issues (such as jobs and prices) would be most important to their vote for president (47.5 %). Another one-quarter said foreign policy issues (like the Iraq war and terrorism) would be most important (24.8 %). Roughly one-sixth (16.8 %) chose other domestic issues (such as public services and taxes) and one-in-ten respondents said social issues (such as abortion and same-sex marriage) would be most important to their presidential vote (10.9 %)."

Obviously, Republicans are very vulnerable when the campaign is focused on the economy, so don't be surprised to see that strategy taken in the Buckeye State.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama News on Friday (2008-06-13 15:04)

The serious flooding in the Midwest could have some impact on the president's race.

Many of the states involved like Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio are battleground states. Many of

the flooded states have already been hit hard by loss of manufacturing jobs, the mortgage crisis and the general economic slowdown.

Barack Obama On Death of Tim Russert (2008-06-13 17:15)

Here is Barack Obama's statement on the news that NBC News Washington Bureau Chief Tim Russert had died suddenly of a heart attack today.

I've known Tim Russert since I first spoke at the convention in 2004. He's somebody who, over time, I came to consider not only a journalist but a friend. There wasn't a better interviewer in TV, not a more thoughtful analyst of our politics, and he was also one of the finest men I knew. Somebody who cared about America, cared about the issues, cared about family. I am grief-stricken with the loss and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family. And I hope that, even though Tim is irreplaceable, that the standard that he set in his professional life and his family life are standards that we all carry with us in our own lives.

For those who follow Washington politics, Tim Russert was one of the last true journalists. He got to the heart of the matter with as little bias as humanly possible.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Saturday (2008-06-14 12:54)

Training for Obama Organizing Fellows begins today.

Here is a slide show of the training in Ohio.

[EMBED]

In Kaukauna, Wisconsin yesterday, one of the stops on the Change that Works for You tour, Barack Obama talked about middle class tax cuts. Barack's plan offers three times more tax relief for the middle class as compared to John McCain's proposal.

[EMBED]

Grassroots supporter Jake created an Obama portrait using thumb tacks. Check out the video below.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Fellows Train to Register Voters (2008-06-15 10:42)

From barackobama.com :

Fellows Training: The Importance of Voter Registration

by Amanda Scott,

Sunday, June 15, 2008 at 10:04 AM

The first session today was focused on voter registration. Since May 10, our campaign has been focused on registering voters across the country because, as field organizer Adrian told the Fellows, "Change happens because you step up and take part in your community."

Adrian spoke about why we are registering voters and what are the best tactics to use. Here's what she said...

This election gives us the biggest opportunity in years to change the electoral map by registering new voters.

Recent Obama voter registration drives have helped register more than 200,000 new Democrats in Pennsylvania, more than 165,000 new Democrats in North Carolina, and more than 150,000 new Democrats in Indiana. Those numbers just scratch the surface of what's possible.

By adding new voters to the voter rolls across America, we can reshape the electoral map, not just for this campaign but for local campaigns as well; we can mobilize a new segment of the voting age population and put communities and states into play that have not been seriously in play in years.

The best tactics:

- Plan ahead. It is infinitely easier to register voters at schools, churches, mall or retail stores if you have a friendly local connection to help you get in. Respect the rules set out for you at that site.
- Register anyone who approaches you and wants to register - respect their right to vote.
- Target your activities to communities or organizations that are more likely to have people who will vote for Barack in the fall.
- When asking if someone is registered to vote, sound cheerful and look them in the eye.
- Talk to everyone. You must engage people proactively to get them to register. Remember, you are inviting them to take on one of the greatest honors and responsibilities of American citizenship.
- Play things by ear. In some places (schools, grocery stores, etc) arranging to get a voter registration table is the best way to reach people. In other places, it's best to just wing it.
- Wear something that shows people that you're with Barack Obama.
- Always be respectful. You represent Barack Obama.

The best sites to register new voters:

- Be sure to target Democratic or Obama-friendly areas
- High traffic areas (beauty/barber shops, grocery stores, mall, laundromats)
- Blind-knocking apartment buildings in Obama friendly areas
- Bus or subway stops, parking lots (ride the bus or the underground)
- Local community events, concerts or sporting events
- Churches in Obama-friendly areas
- Schools, churches, young people hangouts
- Anywhere people would stand to be waiting, like the DMV, movie theater, or gas stations
- Local community meetings or centers

Supporters, along with our Fellows, will be holding voter registration drives all summer long. Take action and use the information above to start a drive in your town!

[EMBED]

Fellows in training.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Tony H (2008-06-15 16:32:00)

"Listen to Barack" Tees available on our website

TheQuarterhug.com

Video: Barack Obama on Father's Day (2008-06-15 20:19)

Sen. Barack Obama gave a Father's Day speech today at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, in which he talked about growing up with an absent father.

[EMBED]

Yesterday, Barack went to Quincy, Illinois to help volunteers fill sandbags in their fight against rising floodwaters.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Al Gore to Endorse Barack Obama (2008-06-16 12:06)

Good to have Al onboard!

Message from Al Gore: "My Endorsement"; Watch the Live Stream Tonight at 8:30 pm EDT
by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Monday, June 16, 2008 at 11:54 AM

Former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore just sent out this email...

Dear Friend,

✖ A few hours from now I will step on stage in Detroit, Michigan to announce my support for Senator Barack Obama. From now through Election Day, I intend to do whatever I can to make sure he is elected President of the United States.

Over the next four years, we are going to face many difficult challenges – including bringing our troops home from Iraq, fixing our economy, and solving the climate crisis. Barack Obama is clearly the candidate best able to solve these problems and bring change to America.

This moment and this election are too important to let pass without taking action.

That's why I am asking you to join me in showing your support by making a contribution to this campaign today:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/gore>

Over the past 18 months, Barack Obama has united a movement. He knows change does not come from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue or Capitol Hill. It begins when people stand up and take action.

With the help of millions of supporters like you, Barack Obama will bring the change we so desperately need in order to solve our country's most pressing problems.

If you've already contributed to this campaign, I ask that you consider making another contribution right now. If you haven't, please take the next step and own a piece of this campaign today:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/gore>

On the issues that matter most, Barack Obama is clearly the right choice to lead our nation.

We have a lot of work to do in the next few months to elect Barack Obama president, and it begins by making a contribution to this campaign today.

Thank you for joining me,

Al Gore

LIVE TONIGHT – 8:30 p.m. EDT: Watch streaming video of Al Gore and Barack Obama at a rally in Detroit, Michigan:

<http://www.BarackObama.com>

✖

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Photos from Detroit (2008-06-16 19:20)

Al Gore's endorsement should help position Barack Obama as the "green" choice. Here is a Flickr slide show from tonight's endorsement by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate in Detroit before a crowd of 20,000. Michigan is another one of the battleground states.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Al Gore Endorses Barack Obama at Joe Louis Arena (2008-06-17 07:52)

Here's the video of former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore endorsing Sen. Barack Obama.
[EMBED]

An excerpt from Al Gore's endorsement:

Many people have waited for some sign that our country is awakening once again. How will we know when a massive wave of reform and recovery and regeneration is about to take hold and renew our nation? What would it look like if such a change were beginning to build? I think we might recognize it as a sign of such change if we saw millions of young people getting involved for the first time in the political process. I think we might just recognize it if we saw that new generation casting aside obsolete and hurtful distinctions and reaching out to one another across the ancient divisions that have frustrated action in the past. I think we would know this change was coming if a new generation rejected the special interest politics of the past and the big money that fueled it, and instead used the internet to get small donations and unite Americans in a common effort to realize our common destiny.



Plan for a Clean Energy Future

"Well, I don't believe that climate change is just an issue that's convenient to bring up during a campaign. I believe it's one of the greatest moral challenges of our generation. That's why I've fought successfully in the Senate to increase our investment in renewable fuels. That's why I reached across the aisle to come up with a plan to raise our fuel standards... And I didn't just give a speech about it in front of some environmental audience in California. I went to Detroit, I stood in front of a group of automakers, and I told them that when I am president, there will

be no more excuses — we will help them retool their factories, but they will have to make cars that use less oil.”

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, October 14, 2007

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Issues: Energy and Environment (2008-06-17 08:35)

From barackobama.com :

At a Glance

- Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050
- Invest in a Clean Energy Future
- Support Next Generation Biofuels
- Set America on Path to Oil Independence
- Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030
- Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

Speak your mind and help set the policies that will guide this campaign and change the country.

- Present *your* ideas

Videos on Energy

The Problem

Foreign Oil: America's 20-million-barrel-a-day oil habit costs our economy \$1.4 billion a day, and \$500 billion in 2006 alone. Every single hour, we spend \$41 million on foreign oil.

Climate Change: As a result of climate change, glaciers are melting faster; the polar ice caps are shrinking; trees are blooming earlier; more people are dying in heat waves; species are migrating, and eventually many will become extinct.

Barack Obama's Plan

Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050

- Cap and Trade: Obama supports implementation of a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary: 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Obama's cap-and-trade system will require all pollution credits to be auctioned. A 100 percent auction ensures that all polluters pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these emission rights away to coal and oil companies. Some of the revenue generated by auctioning allowances will be used to support the development of clean energy, to invest in energy efficiency improvements, and to address transition costs, including helping American workers affected by this economic transition.

- **Confront Deforestation and Promote Carbon Sequestration:** Obama will develop domestic incentives that reward forest owners, farmers, and ranchers when they plant trees, restore grasslands, or undertake farming practices that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Invest in a Clean Energy Future

- **Invest \$150 Billion over 10 Years in Clean Energy:** Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial-scale renewable energy, invest in low-emissions coal plants, and begin the transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.
- **Double Energy Research and Development Funding:** Obama will double science and research funding for clean energy projects including those that make use of our biomass, solar and wind resources.
- **Invest in a Skilled Clean Technologies Workforce:** Obama will use proceeds from the cap-and-trade auction program to invest in job training and transition programs to help workers and industries adapt to clean technology development and production. Obama will also create an energy-focused Green Jobs Corps to connect disconnected and disadvantaged youth with job skills for a high-growth industry.
- **Convert our Manufacturing Centers into Clean Technology Leaders:** Obama will establish a federal investment program to help manufacturing centers modernize and Americans learn the new skills they need to produce green products.
- **Clean Technologies Deployment Venture Capital Fund:** Obama will create a Clean Technologies Venture Capital Fund to fill a critical gap in U.S. technology development. Obama will invest \$10 billion per year into this fund for five years. The fund will partner with existing investment funds and our National Laboratories to ensure that promising technologies move beyond the lab and are commercialized in the U.S.
- **Require 25 Percent of Renewable Electricity by 2025:** Obama will establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025.
- **Develop and Deploy Clean Coal Technology:** Obama will significantly increase the resources devoted to the commercialization and deployment of low-carbon coal technologies. Obama will consider whatever policy tools are necessary, including standards that ban new traditional coal facilities, to ensure that we move quickly to commercialize and deploy low carbon coal technology.

Support Next Generation Biofuels

- **Deploy Cellulosic Ethanol:** Obama will invest federal resources, including tax incentives, cash prizes and government contracts into developing the most promising technologies with the goal of getting the first two billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol into the system by 2013.
- **Expand Locally-Owned Biofuel Refineries:** Less than 10 percent of new ethanol production today is from farmer-owned refineries. New ethanol refineries help jumpstart rural economies. Obama will create a number of incentives for local communities to invest in their biofuels refineries.
- **Establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard:** Barack Obama will establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard to speed the introduction of low-carbon non-petroleum fuels. The standard requires fuels suppliers to reduce the carbon their fuel emits by ten percent by 2020.
- **Increase Renewable Fuel Standard:** Obama will require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be included in the fuel supply by 2022 and will increase that to at least 60 billion gallons of advanced biofuels like cellulosic ethanol by 2030.

Set America on Path to Oil Independence

Obama's plan will reduce oil consumption by at least 35 percent, or 10 million barrels per day, by 2030. This will more than offset the equivalent of the oil we would import from OPEC nations in 2030.

- **Increase Fuel Economy Standards:** Obama will double fuel economy standards within 18 years. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars rather than overseas companies. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.

Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030

- **Set National Building Efficiency Goals:** Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He'll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.
- **Establish a Grant Program for Early Adopters:** Obama will create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps to implement new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency.
- **Invest in a Digital Smart Grid:** Obama will pursue a major investment in our utility grid to enable a tremendous increase in renewable generation and accommodate modern energy requirements, such as reliability, smart metering, and distributed storage



Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

- **Create New Forum of Largest Greenhouse Gas Emitters:** Obama will create a Global Energy Forum — that includes all G-8 members plus Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa — the largest energy consuming nations from both the developed and developing world. The forum would focus exclusively on global energy and environmental issues.
- **Re-Engage with the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change:** The UNFCCC process is the main international forum dedicated to addressing the climate problem and an Obama administration will work constructively within it.

Barack Obama's Record

- **Renewable Fuels:** Obama has worked on numerous efforts in the Senate to increase access to and use of renewable fuels. Obama passed legislation with Senator Jim Talent (R-MO) to give gas stations a tax credit for installing E85 ethanol refueling pumps. The tax credit covers 30 percent of the costs of switching one or more traditional petroleum pumps to E85, which is an 85 percent ethanol/15 percent gasoline blend. Obama also sponsored an amendment that became law providing \$40 million for commercialization of a combined flexible fuel vehicle/hybrid car within five years.
- **CAFE:** Obama introduced a bold new plan that brought Republicans and Democrats, CAFE supporters and long-time opponents together in support of legislation that will gradually increase fuel economy standards and offer what the New York Times editorial page called "real as opposed to hypothetical results."

For More Information about Barack's Plan

-  [Read the Energy Plan](#)
-  [Read the Environment Plan](#)
- [Read the Speech](#)

Also, read Barack's plan to strengthen the economy.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



janeofreedom (2008-06-18 13:34:00)

I was actually thinking about voting for Obama. He is very intelligent, and seems quite articulate. On the surface he is a much better candidate than John McCain who I am less than thrilled with. I was planning on voting Huckabee, Then I was hoping for a Hillary, Turns out I may be voting Bob Barr Libertarian candidate.

Obama had my vote in the beginning I liked the Idea of ending the unjust costly war. I liked the approach of diplomacy over force. He seemed like someone who I would be very comfortable with as president. But like many other Americans I started doing my research. I found out Obamas voting record on Partial birth Abortion. Now im not what you would necessarily call a Pro-Lifer, However I do have to draw the line at the partial birth abortion. These late trimester abortions are horrific and cold. If you have not done the research into Obamas Abortion record I would advise you to do so. Here is a link. www.theobamaplan.com

Targeted States: Michigan (2008-06-17 16:47)

Michigan voted for both Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004. However, it is considered a swing state this election. Although it probably is not sound to take the demographic results from exit polls in the primary and apply them to the general election, some pundits believe Barack Obama is weak among working class Catholics particularly Catholic males. One out of every 5 people in Michigan is Catholic according to U.S. census figures.

However, Michigan has been hit hard by the economic downturn and this should make things very difficult for John McCain who will probably get linked with the Bush economy.

There is little evidence that Barack is weak in Michigan according to the polls, although we should note it is still too early to take poll results too seriously.

General Election: McCain vs. Obama (RealClearPolitics)

PollDateSampleObama (D)McCain (R)Spread

RealClearPolitics Average 06/05 - 06/16 - 46.3 42.3 Obama +4.0 ABC News/Wash Post 06/12 - 06/15 - 49 45 Obama +4.0 Cook/RT Strategies 06/12 - 06/15 880 RV 44 40 Obama +4.0 Gallup Tracking 06/14 - 06/16 2605 RV 46 42 Obama +4.0 Rasmussen Tracking 06/14 - 06/16 3000 LV 48 44 Obama +4.0 NBC/WSJ 06/06 - 06/09 1000 RV 47 41 Obama +6.0 Hotline/FD 06/05 - 06/08 806 RV 44 42 Obama +2.0

As we can see above, Obama is consistently ahead in the polls, and usually above the margin of error.

A Detroit News/WXYZ-TV poll shows 43 percent of Michigan state voters rate the economy as the top issue facing the country, followed by the war in Iraq at 14 percent, terrorism at 13 percent, preserving traditional values at 10 percent, illegal immigration at 9 percent and health care with 7 percent.

[EMBED]

Barack visits GM workers during shift change in Flint, Michigan.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama: Senior Working Group on National Security (2008-06-18 09:43)

Sen. Barack Obama announced today his Senior Working Group on National Security to advise him on policy until the election in November.

Interestingly, there are no generals or admirals in the working group. He will meet separately though with a group of nearly 40 flag officers from the armed services.

Obama Announces Senior Working Group on National Security

by Sam Graham-Felsen,

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 07:56 AM

CHICAGO, IL – Senator Obama today announced the formation of his Senior Working Group on National Security, a group of advisors that he will consult on a regular basis between now and the election. Obama will meet with the group for the first time today in Washington, DC for a wide-ranging discussion of the immense challenges faced by the United States in the wake of the disastrous foreign policies of George Bush.

“Each individual here today has provided extraordinary service to our nation in the executive branch and Congress. Several have been advising my campaign for some time. We’re also honored to be joined by some of Senator Clinton’s senior advisors. In the months to come, we’ll be reaching out to others, as well as leaders in Congress,” Senator Obama said. “The stakes in this election could not be higher. John McCain wants to continue George Bush’s foreign policy which has made us less safe, less respected, and less able to lead the world. It’s time to change course. It’s time to end the war in Iraq responsibly, refocus on Afghanistan and al Qaeda, and renew our global leadership so that we can tackle the huge challenges of the 21st century.”

Later today, he will also meet with a group of nearly 40 retired Admirals and Generals to discuss the state of our armed forces, and the challenges facing our military in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. This meeting is part of an ongoing dialogue between Senator Obama and current and former military officers of various ranks and views.

Senator Obama’s Senior Working Group on National Security includes:

- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
- Senator David Boren, former Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
- Secretary of State Warren Christopher
- Greg Craig, former director of the State Department Office of Policy Planning

- Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig
- Representative Lee Hamilton, former Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee
- Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder
- Dr. Tony Lake, former National Security Advisor
- Senator Sam Nunn, former Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Secretary of Defense William Perry
- Dr. Susan Rice, former Assistant Secretary of State
- Representative Tim Roemer, 9/11 Commissioner
- Jim Steinberg, former Deputy National Security Advisor

Click here to read Senator Obama's plan to turn the page on the failed Bush-McCain foreign policy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama vs. Cindy McCain (2008-06-18 14:31)

Some good news today, as an ABC News/Washington Post poll released today, showed that Michelle Obama has a 9 point lead over Cindy McCain in favorable ratings.

Michelle appeared today as a guest host on ABC's "The View." Check out the YouTube clip.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama speaks before National Security Meeting (2008-06-18 18:25)

Sen. Barack Obama spoke to the press today before meeting with his National Security team in Washington, DC.

[EMBED]

Here is some of what he said.

We continue to face grave threats, not only from terrorism, but also nuclear proliferation, climate change and poverty, genocide and disease. Nearly all of these threats have grown over the last eight years because of the policies of George Bush, which I believe have left us less safe and less respected in the world.

Instead of adhering to a rigid ideology, I want to get back to the pragmatic tradition of American foreign policy which has been so ably advanced by the people in this room, a policy that's focused on using all elements of American power to protect our people and to advance our interests.

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama Passes on Public Financing (2008-06-19 08:22)

You may have heard already that the Obama campaign has decided to pass up public financing for the general election.

Barack attempted to negotiate a deal with John McCain on the issue, but without satisfactory results. The Republican National Committee has raised much more money than its Democratic counterpart, and these funds include money from special interest groups. Also, apparently no terms could be reached on the problem of the 527 PACs, which campaign independently from the candidate, for example, the "Swift Boat" group from John Kerry's presidential bid. Here is a video of Barack explaining this decision.

[EMBED]

Transcript of message.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Declaring Independence from Broken System (2008-06-19 15:38)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe explains how the public campaign financing system is broke in an email sent out today.

A top McCain adviser told MSNBC earlier this month, "now that we're in the general election, the RNC money counts, the DNC money counts. So the truth is today, John McCain has more cash on hand and more money than Barack Obama does."



Barack announced an important decision for our campaign today.

I want to add a little context to the video message earlier announcing that we will not participate in the public financing system for the general election.

Even though we stood to receive more than \$80 million in taxpayer funding for our campaign, the system has been so gamed and exploited by our opponents that it is effectively broken.

John McCain, the Republican National Committee, and their allies in so-called 527 groups that raise and spend unlimited contributions are dedicated to manipulating this broken system to raise as much money as possible – and they’ve proven that they’re very good at it.

A top McCain adviser told MSNBC earlier this month, “now that we’re in the general election, the RNC money counts, the DNC money counts. So the truth is today, John McCain has more cash on hand and more money than Barack Obama does.”

In April alone, they raised nearly \$45 million. That’s more than our campaign and the Democratic National Committee combined. And that doesn’t include the plans of 527 groups like the one called “Freedom’s Watch,” which has said it will spend as much as \$250 million under Karl Rove’s direction to attack and defeat Barack Obama.

To compete, Barack has put his faith in ordinary people giving only what they can afford. That’s been the strategy of this campaign from the beginning, and more than 1,500,000 supporters like you have gotten us this far.

We have a historic opportunity to prove that a movement of ordinary people has the power to change the way political campaigns are funded. And we have a clear goal as we begin this new challenge: 50,000 people declaring their independence by making a donation before July 4th.

Our supporters have gotten us this far with their prior giving. But right now you can grow our movement by giving again. If you promise to match the gift of a first time donor, you could be what convinces them to give for the first time. You’ll double your impact, and you’ll get to see the name and town of the person

you match. You can even exchange a personal note about why you've chosen to support Barack. Declare your independence from our broken system. Make a matching donation now and bring someone new into this campaign.

Opting out of public matching funds was an extremely difficult decision, and frankly we are at a disadvantage when it comes to raising money. Unlike John McCain, this campaign has never accepted donations from Washington lobbyists or special interest PACs.

While McCain has built his fundraising strategy around high-dollar donors giving huge checks to the RNC, you are creating a new model for publicly financed campaigns.

Thank you for your support and for taking on the masters of a broken system,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama talks with Democratic Governors (LIVE) (2008-06-20 08:03)

Sen. Barack Obama is hosting a forum with Democratic governors at the Chicago History Museum this morning. You can watch the event live below.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama supports the DCCC (2008-06-20 11:09)

Barack Obama sent out this email asking for contributions to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

The DCCC helps elect Democrats to the House of Representatives. A majority of Democrats will be important in helping Obama push his agenda.

SENATOR
Barack Obama





Dear Paul,

America, this is our moment. This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love.

You and I are clear about our goal. We are out to change Washington in a deep and lasting way, charting a new course for America. That means winning the White House. But it also means building a strong foundation in Congress by electing dozens of new, change-oriented candidates nationwide.

June 30th marks the first FEC reporting deadline since I have become the presumptive Democratic nominee. It's clear that media pundits and our opponents will use Democratic fundraising totals as a measure of our party's strength this November.

Today, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) is launching its **United for Change Campaign** to show Democratic strength across the electoral map by the June 30th reporting deadline. **House Democrats are joining us to help and will match every gift 2-to-1 today, making any gift of \$50 worth \$150.**

Make a matched gift now of \$35, \$50 or more now at www.dccc.org/obama

The sole mission of the DCCC is to guide Democratic candidates for the House to victory. They were the driving force behind the powerful 2006 victories that made Nancy Pelosi the first woman Speaker of the House.

Our campaign has the potential to redraw the political map and help Democrats get elected all across the country - especially in places where Democrats have not fared well for decades. And, already this year, House Democrats have **won three remarkable special election victories** in historically Republican districts - despite outside special-interest groups spending millions attacking our candidates.

Show your personal support and unity today in our first test together before the June 30th deadline. I hope you will answer our call.

Make a matched gift of \$35, \$50 or more now at www.dccc.org/obama

I believe we can win this election, and more importantly, I believe we can transform the electoral map and win a new majority for change, so we can finally solve the problems we have been talking about for decades. Please stand with me and support the DCCC today. Let's add our strength, energy, and stand together United for Change.

Make a matched gift of \$35, \$50 or more now at www.dccc.org/obama

I look forward to the moment when I can stand, as your President, before a Congress filled with dozens of new members ready, willing and able to join us in driving change forward. Your immediate donation to the DCCC can help make that moment a reality.

Thanks for helping out with this,

Barack

P.S. Answer our call for unity and strength – **contribute now at www.dccc.org/obama**.

PROTECT OUR DEMOCRATIC CHAMPIONS

FORWARD OUR MESSAGE TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY



If you are having trouble with any of the links, cut and paste the following into your browser:

<http://www.dccc.org/speakersos6>

To unsubscribe from this email list, please use the link below:

<http://www.dccc.org/page/unsubscribe/> To make sure you always get our emails add dccc@dccc.org to your address book.

Find out more about adding us to your address book here .



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama on Economy (2008-06-20 12:17)

Sen. Barack Obama talks about the economy with labor leaders on June 19, 2008 in Washington, DC.

[EMBED]

Today, in a meeting with the nation's Democratic governors, Barack said:

You deserve and you need a partner in the White House and a president who understands our prosperity doesn't come from Wall Street or Washington. We should be investing in the skills, the human capital, the education and well-being of your constituents.



You've gotta solve problems; ultimately the buck stops with you. You've gotta balance your budget. If you've got a badly drafted piece of legislation, you're the ones who have to live with it and as a consequence you end up spending less time posturing and trying to score ideological points and more time trying to govern. We need that same approach in Washington.

Also, check out Barack's economic plan.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Money in May (2008-06-20 19:43)

Barack Obama raised \$21.9 million during the month of May down from the previous month.

Obama's campaign has more than \$43.1 million on hand, of which \$33.3 million can be used during primary season, with approximately \$304,000 in debt.

In comparison, John McCain had \$32 million cash on hand at the end of May reporting period. However, the Republican Party has significantly more money in the bank to help their candidates than does the Democratic Party. Obviously this is an area where Hillary Clinton can be very helpful. Like Obama, she outraised McCain during the primary season.

Clinton and her fundraisers will meet with Obama next week and the two senators will campaign together for the first time.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michael (2008-06-21 07:18:00)
Say good bye to the 4th Amendment.
And we thought Obama was different!!
NOT!!!

Targeted States: New Mexico (2008-06-21 08:11)

New Mexico voted for Al Gore in 2000, but for George W. Bush in 2004.
Currently, New Mexico has a Democratic senator, Jeff Bingaman, and a Republican one, Pete Domenici. The governor of the state is Democrat Bill Richardson.

A total of 153,299 Democrats turned out for the primary on Feb. 5, as compared to 110,438 for the Republicans on June 3. The latter contest though was held long after the Republican race was decided.

Barack Obama is consistently beating John McCain in New Mexico polls for the general election.

General Election: McCain vs. Obama (RealClearPolitics)

PollDateSampleObama (D)McCain (R)Spread
RCP Average 06/12 - 06/19 - 47.5 42.0 Obama +5.5 USA Today/Gallup 06/15 - 06/19 1310 LV 50 44 Obama +6.0 Newsweek 06/18 - 06/19 896 RV 51 36 Obama +15.0 FOX News 06/17 - 06/18 900 RV 45 41 Obama +4.0 Rasmussen Tracking 06/17 - 06/19 3000 LV 48 44 Obama +4.0 Gallup Tracking 06/16 - 06/19 2648 RV 46 44 Obama +2.0 Reuters/Zogby 06/12 - 06/14 1113 LV 47 42 Obama +5.0 ABC News/Wash Post 06/12 - 06/15 - 49 45 Obama +4.0 Cook/RT Strategies 06/12 - 06/15 880 RV 44 40 Obama +4.0

New Mexico has a large Latino population and a Gallup Poll summary of surveys taken in May shows Obama winning 62 % of Latino registered voters nationwide, compared with just 29 % for McCain.
A May poll found that about 59 percent of voters thought Iraq and the economy were the most important issues facing the nation, followed in third place by national security, the issue picked by 10 percent of voters. The same poll found that 81 % thought the country was on 'the wrong track,' indicating some trouble for the party presently in power.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama News on Saturday (2008-06-21 20:58)

Yesterday, Barack Obama explained the politics behind offshore oil rig drilling at a press conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

[EMBED]

Today, Barack appeared at the U.S. Conference of Mayor's convention in Miami where he talked about the importance of local government.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama to Attack Rampant Energy Speculation (2008-06-22 10:20)

With oil and gas prices soaring, Sen. Barack Obama announced today a plan to clamp down on excess energy speculation and shut down the "Enron Loophole."

Oil and gas prices are among the main causes of the current economic downturn, and contribute also to the rising cost of food.

Obama Announces Plan to Crack Down on Excessive Energy Speculation

by Christopher Hass,

Sunday, June 22, 2008 at 10:13 AM

Senator Obama announced a plan today to crack down on excessive energy speculation and fully close the "Enron Loophole" to ease the impact of skyrocketing gas prices. The Enron Loophole was created by McCain campaign co-chair Phil Gramm at the behest of Enron, and exempts most over-the-counter energy trades and trading on electronic energy commodity markets from regulation.

In his statement, Senator Obama explained:

For the past years, our energy policy in this country has been simply to let the special interests have their way—opening up loopholes for the oil companies and speculators so that they could reap record profits while the rest of us pay \$4.00 a gallon. My plan fully closes the Enron Loophole and restores common-sense regulation as part of my broader plan to ease the burden for struggling families today while investing in a better future.

Read the full Obama Plan to Crack Down on Excessive Energy Speculation . . .

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama-Clinton? (2008-06-23 07:28)

Is the fundraising night on Thursday with Sen. Hillary Clinton and the subsequent campaign appearances a prelude to an Obama-Clinton ticket?

There are a lot of different opinions out there. Some people with supposed 'inside' connections say that Hillary has been taken off the "short list." Others claim she is the inevitable VP pick.

As I've said before, the pressure on Obama to pick Clinton is major. A very substantial chunk of the Democratic Party base, judging from the DNC votes and endorsements, are former Clinton-backers, many of them actively campaigning for Hillary as Obama's running mate.

The Obama campaign has been very secretive about the selection process, other than naming the committee that will vet the potential picks.

Clinton has enemies within the party, especially from the progressive wing, who oppose her on ideological grounds. Then, there are others who think that a "balanced" ticket should include a white male as VP.

It may be that the upcoming events will allow Obama to test the waters with Clinton, to see whether the two can work together, and to test the reaction among both camps of supporters.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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scan-design (2008-06-23 12:41:00)

cool site!

<http://tetrisdesign.blogspot.com/>

Using Caution with Polling Data (2008-06-23 13:14)

The most recent polls suggest that Barack Obama has a substantial double digit lead over John McCain. This is good news, especially when we consider that Barack might be expected to trail McCain at this time given the latter's stronger name recognition.

However, we have to be careful with polling data especially as there is still about four months to until the polls in November. That's a long time in the world of campaigning.

You might remember that there was a time last year, when pundits were ready to stick a fork in McCain's campaign. He was way behind in the polls and was nearly broke. At it was about this time last year, that Barack looked like a young, hopeful guy, but with little chance of beating the 'inevitable' Clinton machine. Some polls showed Clinton having an even wider spread than Obama enjoys now against McCain.

Experts know that many more people will vote in the general election as compared to the primaries. The fact that these folks did not bother to vote in the primaries is pretty good evidence they haven't been paying much attention. As the general election draws nearer, really in many cases in just the last few weeks, these same people will begin to focus on which candidate they want to support. They are typical swing voters. This is a time when polls can change

very rapidly day to day.

Much of the effort in the campaign at the present time is in preparation for winning those swing voters over during that crucial end-game period.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama at a Working Women Forum today in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: Barack Obama @ Working Women Discussion (2008-06-23 19:23)

Here's the video of Sen. Barack Obama speaking at the Working Women Discussion in Albuquerque, New Mexico today.

[EMBED]

Barack discussed issues like middle class tax cuts, equal pay and paid leave with a group of working women.

We can't afford an economy where folks keep working harder for less. We can't let the women in our workforce get paid even less for doing the same work. And we can't keep pushing more and more of the burden on to the backs of working parents who are struggling to balance their jobs and their family. Because what binds us together, what makes us one American family, is that we stand up and fight for each other's dreams, and for the dreams of all of our children.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Hanuman Temple in India Prays for Obama Victory (2008-06-24 10:28)

According to reports, Barack Obama carries around a few lucky charms, " a bracelet belonging to an American soldier deployed in Iraq, a gambler's lucky chit, a tiny monkey god and tiny Madonna and child."

When devotees of the monkey god Hanuman in Delhi, India heard the news, they were ecstatic. They had a 15 kg. gold-plated Hanuman idol made and presented it to Carolyn Sauvage-Mar, chairperson of Democrats Abroad-India and an Obama delegate.



Democrats Abroad India Chairperson Carolyn Sauvage-Mar, center, gestures, as devotees of Hindu God Hanuman place a traditional turban on her head in New Delhi, India, Tuesday. A dozen priests chanted around a sacred fire on Tuesday as a group of Indians offered prayers to Hanuman to grant victory to Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama. Sauvage-Mar is one of 22 delegates who will represent overseas Americans at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo., and is pledged to vote for Obama. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Live Video: Barack on Energy Solutions (Las Vegas) (2008-06-24 11:02)

Sen. Barack Obama is speaking live in Las Vegas, Nevada on energy solutions. Check out the video below.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack tours Solar Energy Facility (2008-06-24 17:24)

Barack Obama toured the Springs Preserve in Nevada, which was designed to meet Platinum Leadership in Energy Design (LEED) standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Solar panels here can deliver up to kW of electricity.

[EMBED]

Barack's energy plan proposes doubling clean energy research funding and requiring 25 % clean renewable energy sourcing by 2025. Here is the text from Barack's energy policy speech today in Las Vegas.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama – as prepared for delivery

A Serious Energy Policy for Our Future

as prepared for delivery

Tuesday, June 24th, 2008

Las Vegas, Nevada

I want to start by thanking the folks here at Springs Preserve for the wonderful tour we just had. What we are seeing here – from the solar panels that power this facility to the Bombard workers who built it – is that a green, renewable energy economy isn't some pie-in-the-sky, far-off future, it is now. It is creating jobs, now. It is providing cheap alternatives to \$140-a-barrel oil, now. And it can create millions of additional jobs and entire new industries if we act now.

All across the country, local leaders and entrepreneurs and small business owners are providing the innovation and initiative needed to make this transformation possible. In Pennsylvania, an old steel mill has become the home of a new wind turbine factory because of the state's push for renewable portfolio standards that require the production of more alternative energy. Wisconsin is poised to gain more than 14,000 jobs at existing manufacturing facilities because of its investment in wind power. Where we're standing in Southern Nevada happens to be one of the best sources for the generation of solar power in the world. Next week, our friend and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will come here to cut the ribbon on a new thermal solar technology plant. And between solar, wind, and geothermal energy, this state

could create upwards of 80,000 new jobs by 2025.

The possibilities of renewable energy are limitless. But to truly harness its potential, we urgently need real leadership from Washington – leadership that has been missing for decades. We have been talking about energy independence since Americans were waiting in gas lines during the 1970s. We've heard promises about it in every State of the Union for the last three decades. But each and every year, we become more, not less, addicted to oil – a 19th century fossil fuel that is dirty, dwindling, and dangerously expensive. Why?

It isn't because the resources and technology aren't there. We know this because countries like Spain, Germany, and Japan have already leapt ahead of us when it comes to renewable energy technology. Germany, a country as cloudy as the Pacific Northwest, is now a world leader in the solar power industry and the quarter million new jobs it has created. In less than eight years, before we'd ever see a drop of oil from offshore drilling, they have doubled their renewable energy output. And they did it by using technology that, in some cases, was paid for by the American people through our own Research and Development tax credits. The difference is, their government harnessed that technology by providing the necessary investments and incentives to jumpstart a renewable energy industry. Washington hasn't done that.

What Washington has done is what Washington always does – it's peddled false promises, irresponsible policy, and cheap gimmicks that might get politicians through the next election, but won't lead America toward the next generation of renewable energy. And now we're paying the price. Now we've fallen behind the rest of the world. Now we're forced to beg Saudi Arabia for more oil. Now we're facing gas prices over \$4 a gallon – gas prices that are decimating the savings of families who are already struggling in this economy. Like the man I met in Pennsylvania who lost his job and couldn't even afford the gas to drive around and look for a new one. That's how badly folks are hurting. That's how badly Washington has failed.

For decades, John McCain has been a part of this failure in Washington. Yes, he has gone further than some in his party in speaking out on climate change. And that is commendable. But time and time again, he has opposed investing in the alternative sources of energy that have helped fuel some of the very same projects and businesses he's highlighting in this campaign. He's voted against biofuels. Against solar power. Against wind power. Against a 2005 energy bill that represented the largest ever investment in renewable sources of energy – a bill that Senator McCain's own campaign co-chair, called "the biggest legislative breakthrough we've had" since he's been in the Senate. That bill certainly wasn't perfect – it contained irresponsible tax breaks for oil companies that I consistently opposed, and that I will repeal as President. But the tax credits in that bill contributed to wind power growing 45 % last year, the sharpest rise in decades. If John McCain had his way, those tax credits wouldn't exist. And if we don't renew key tax incentives for alternative energy production – tax incentives that John McCain opposed continuing – we could lose up to 116,000 green jobs and \$19 billion in investment just next year. And now he's talking about a tax credit for more efficient cars even though he helped George Bush block these credits twice in the last year.

After all those years in Washington, John McCain still doesn't get it. I commend him for his desire to accelerate the search for a battery that can power the cars of the future. I've been talking about this myself for the last few years. But I don't think a \$300 million prize is enough. When John F. Kennedy decided that we were going to put a man on the moon, he didn't put a bounty out for some rocket scientist to win – he put the full resources of the United States government behind the project and called on the ingenuity and innovation of the American people. That's the kind of effort we need to achieve energy independence in this country, and nothing less will do. But in this campaign, John McCain offering the same old gimmicks that will provide almost no short-term relief to folks who are struggling with high gas prices; gimmicks that will only increase our oil addiction for another four years.

Senator McCain wants a gas tax holiday that will save you – at most – thirty cents a day for three months. And that's only if the oil companies don't just jack up the price and pocket the savings themselves, which is exactly what they did when we tried to do the same thing in Illinois. He's willing to spend nearly \$4 billion on more tax breaks for big oil companies – including \$1.2 billion for Exxon alone. He wants to

open our coastlines to drilling – a proposal that his own top economic advisor admitted won't provide any short-term relief at the pump. It's a proposal that George Bush's Administration says will not provide a drop of oil – not a single drop – for at least ten years. And by the time the drilling is fully underway in twenty years, our own Department of Energy says that the effect on gas prices will be "insignificant." Insignificant.

Just yesterday, Senator McCain actually admitted this. In a town hall he said, and I quote, "I don't see an immediate relief" but "the fact that we are exploiting those reserves would have psychological impact that I think is beneficial." Psychological impact. In case you were wondering, that's Washington-speak for, "It polls well." It's an example of how Washington politicians try to convince you that they did something to make your life better when they really didn't. Well the American people don't need psychological relief or meaningless gimmicks to get politicians through the next election, they need real relief that will help them fill up their tanks and put food on their table. They need a long-term energy strategy that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil by investing in the renewable sources of energy that represent the future. That's what they need.

Meanwhile, the oil companies already own drilling rights to 68 million acres of federal lands, onshore and offshore, that they haven't touched. 68 million acres that have the potential to nearly double America's total oil production, and John McCain wants to give them more. Well that might make sense in Washington, but it doesn't make sense for America. In fact, it makes about as much sense as his proposal to build 45 new nuclear reactors without a plan to store the waste some place other than right here at Yucca Mountain. Folks, these are not serious energy policies. They are not new energy policies. And they are certainly not the kind of energy policies that will give families the relief they need or our country the oil independence we must have.

I realize that gimmicks like the gas tax holiday and offshore drilling might poll well these days. But I'm not running for President to do what polls well, I'm running to do what's right for America. I wish I could wave a magic wand and make gas prices go down, but I can't. What I can do – and what I will do – is push for a second stimulus package that will send out another round of rebate checks to the American people. What I will do as President is tax the record profits of oil companies and use the money to help struggling families pay their energy bills. I will provide a \$1,000 tax cut that will go to 95 % of all workers and their families in this country. And I will close the loophole that allows corporations like Enron to engage in unregulated speculation that ends up artificially driving up the price of oil. That's how we'll provide real relief to the American people. That's the change we need.

I have a very different vision of what this country can and should achieve on energy in the next four years – in the next ten years. I have a plan to raise the fuel standards in our cars and trucks with technology we have on the shelf today – technology that will make sure we get more miles to the gallon. And we will provide financial help to our automakers and autoworkers to help them make this transition. I will invest \$150 billion over the next ten years in alternative sources of energy like wind power, and solar power, and advanced biofuels – investments that will create up to five million new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced; that will create billions of dollars in new business like you're already doing here in Nevada. And before we hand over more of our land and our coastline to oil companies, I will charge those companies a fee for every acre that they currently lease but don't drill on. If that compels them to drill, we'll get more oil. If it doesn't, the fees will go toward more investment in renewable sources of energy. When all is said and done, my plan to increase our fuel standards will save American consumers from purchasing half a trillion gallons of gas over the next eighteen years. My entire energy plan will produce three times the oil savings that John McCain's ever could – and what's more, it will actually decrease our dependence on oil while his will only grow our addiction further.

And that's the choice that you face in this election. When you're facing \$4 a gallon gas, do you want a gas tax gimmick that will save you at most thirty cents a day for three months and a drilling proposal that won't provide a drop of oil for ten years, or a second rebate check and \$1,000 tax cut to help your family pay the bills? When you look down the road five years from now or ten years from now, do you want to see an America that's begging dictators for more oil that we can't afford? An America that's fallen further

behind the rest of the world when it comes to the jobs and industries of the future? Or do you want to see more places like Springs Preserve and Bombard Electric? More green jobs and green businesses? More innovation and ingenuity that helps this nation lead the way on affordable, renewable energy? That's the future I know we can have. That's the America I believe in. And that's where I will lead us if I have the chance to serve as your President. It will not be easy. It will not happen overnight. It will not come without cost or sacrifice. But it is possible. It is necessary. And places like this, and people like you, prove that we have the resources, and the skills, and the will to begin today. I look forward to joining you in that effort. Thank you.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama, Cellphones, Popcorn (2008-06-25 10:35)

A funny video using the cellphone-popcorn theme with a Barack Obama touch.
[EMBED]

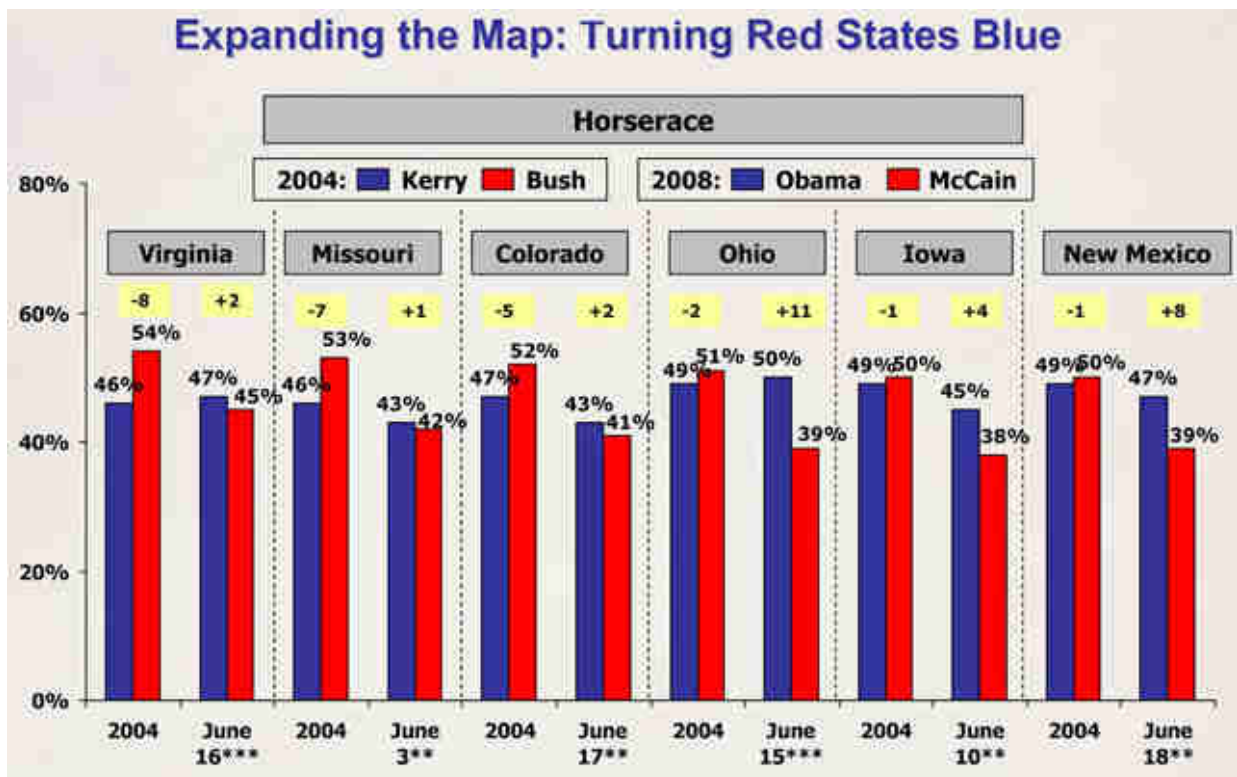
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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Expanding the Map to 50 States (2008-06-25 21:48)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe briefed reporters today on the 50 state strategy planned for the general election.
The campaign involves a massive voter registration and turnout effort.



[click to enlarge](#)

Most campaigns would avoid working in any of the states but those targeted as vulnerable to swing one way or another.

The Obama strategy though activates the maximum number of supporters in all states by getting them involved in grassroots operations. In most cases, these states will pay for themselves while still contributing to the national effort.

A basic principle involved is that more people are likely to get active when they can work locally on the ground. This leads to a larger and stronger overall network with more resources, of various kinds, to apply to the battleground states also.

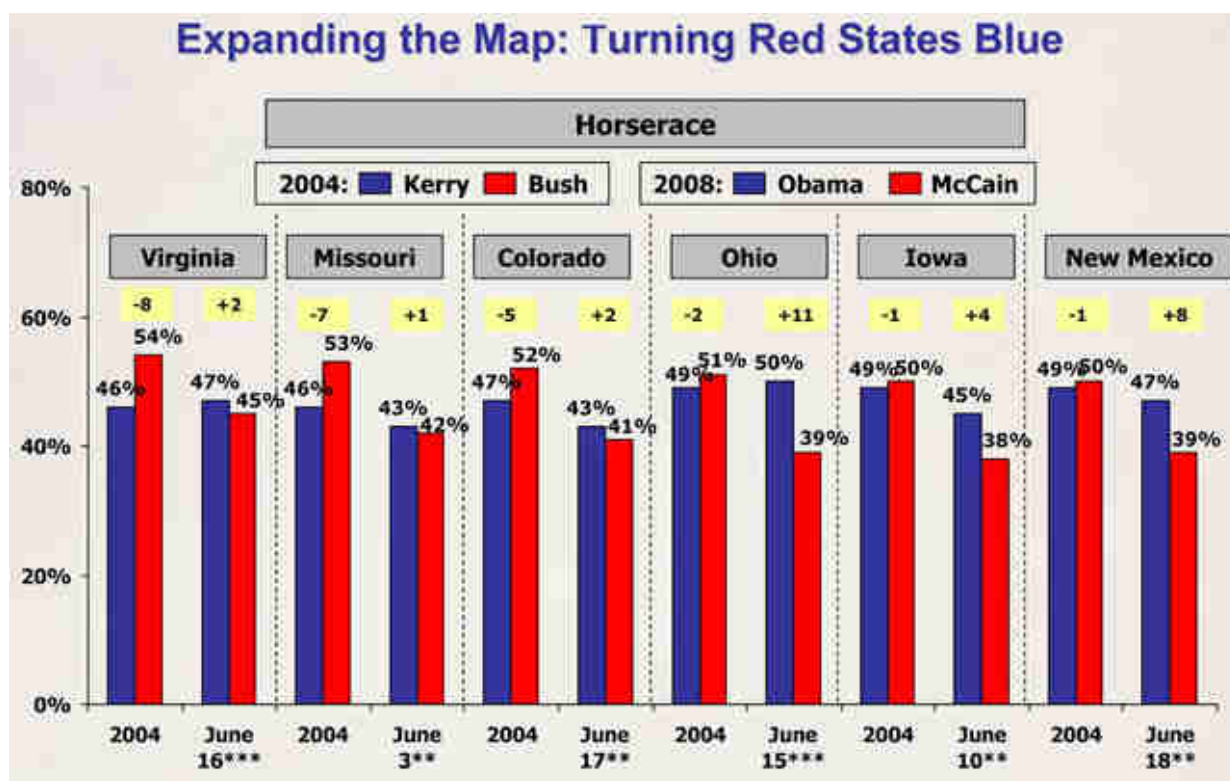
[View the full presentation](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-06-25 21:48)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe briefed reporters today on the 50 state strategy planned for the general election.



Live Video: Barack at Economic Competitiveness Summit (2008-06-26 07:21)

Watch Sen. Barack Obama talk live at the Economic Competitiveness Summit at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh.
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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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AFL-CIO endorses Barack Obama (2008-06-26 13:13)

The last standing major labor organization, the AFL-CIO, endorsed Sen. Barack Obama today. Leaders from the federation promised to organized their biggest ever ground operation. From

barackobama.com

:

AFL-CIO Endorses Barack

by Amanda Scott

, Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 12:50 PM

Calling Sen. Barack Obama a champion for working families, the top leaders of AFL-CIO unions today voted without opposition to endorse him for president of the United States, thrusting the labor federation's largest ever grassroots mobilization effort into high gear.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said...

In so many ways—on jobs, health care, gas prices and the war in Iraq—our country is headed in the wrong direction. Barack Obama has proven from his days as an organizer, to his time in the Senate and his historic run for the presidency, that he's leading the fight to turn around America. He's a champion for working families who knows what it's going to take to create an economy that works for everyone, not just Big Oil, Big Pharma, the insurance companies, the giant mortgage lenders, speculators and the very wealthy. We're proud to stand with Sen. Obama to help our nation chart a course that will improve life for generations of working people and our children.

In its endorsement statement, the AFL-CIO General Board cited Obama's strong support of working families on issues such as health care reform, fair trade that will lift up workers here and around the world, retirement security and the freedom to form unions and bargain for middle-class living standards. Obama has a 98 percent voting record on working families' issues, compared to just 16 percent for Sen. John McCain.

Senator Barack Obama has secured the nomination of his party in a campaign that has energized millions of Americans and spoken to the hopes and dreams of people from every corner of our nation. His leadership can re-engage disenfranchised Americans and bring our country together. Senator Obama has advocated a change of direction for our nation that mirrors the priorities of the labor movement.

The endorsement marks the beginning of a huge, united political mobilization among working class voters. The AFL-CIO will focus on mobilizing more than 13 million union voters—including union members, families of members, retirees and members of the AFL-CIO community affiliate Working America—in 24 priority states, working to elect U.S. senators and representatives, as well as state and local candidates. AFSCME President and AFL-CIO Political Committee Chair Gerald McEntee said...

We'll work our hearts out for Barack Obama. Our program is going to be worker to worker and neighbor to neighbor. We're ready to mobilize. We're ready to rock and roll. This country and our people are ready for change.

This endorsement is a huge benefit to the campaign: hundreds of thousands of volunteers making hundreds of thousands of phone calls, distributing millions of fliers, and engaging in countless shop floor and office suite discussions about why Barack Obama is the best choice for working families. As part of its endorsement, the AFL-CIO has also

launched a new web site to help union members learn about Barack's positions on issue and to give them a place to sign up to help the campaign for change, using tested organizing tactics and new technologies all being harnessed to elect Barack Obama.

If you're part of the a labor organization, visit our Labor page to join this community. And learn more about where Barack stands on worker rights, jobs and trade, health care, retirement security, and education.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama's opening remarks before the Economic Competitiveness Summit today at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama, Clinton in Unity (2008-06-27 08:27)

Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton will appear today in Unity, New Hampshire where they fought to a tie in the primary to promote a unified general election effort.



Sen. Hillary Clinton, left, and Sen. Barack Obama leave Washington on Friday to fly to New Hampshire for a rally (CNN).

Barack has asked his big money fundraisers to help retire Clinton's primary debt, and Clinton is urging her bundlers to support Barack's presidential campaign.

As expected, there was some talk about the possibility of an Obama-Clinton ticket. Terry McAuliffe, Clinton's primary campaign manager said: "I think if she were on the ticket I think we honestly ... would control the White House for 16 years. But Sen. Obama's got to make that decision himself. He's got to do what he thinks is in the best interest of the campaign and country."

"Whatever he decides to do, whatever role for Hillary, she is ready to go. And she will do whatever they ask her to do in the fall campaign."

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Live Video: Barack and Hillary in Unity, New Hampshire (2008-06-27 10:08)

Check out the live feed from Unity, New Hampshire where Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are rally supporters.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: 50 State Strategy (2008-06-27 15:40)

Obama campaign manager David Plouffe sent out an email today outlining the campaign's 50 state strategy.

Plouffe mentions the RNC having more than ten times the money on hand as the DNC, a big chunk of which will go toward supporting John McCain.

Paul –

We're trying something new today.

To bring you an important briefing on our general election strategy, I shot a short video on a laptop in my office. Our team added in some detailed slides with all of the relevant information.

It's important that you're fully briefed on the opportunities and challenges ahead, and this video details how we're going to put together the organization to win in November.

Watch the strategy briefing now, and please make a donation of \$25 to help us execute this plan:



<https://donate.barackobama.com/strategyvideo>

Thank you,
David
David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama Plans Overseas Trip to Middle East and Europe (2008-06-27 20:50)

Sen. Barack Obama will travel overseas at an undisclosed date to meet with leader in countries of Europe and the Middle East. He will visit France, Germany, Israel, Jordan and the United Kingdom to discuss subjects like security and climate change.

This trip will be an important opportunity for me to assess the situation in countries that are critical to American national security, and to consult with some of our closest friends and allies about the common challenges we face.

Israel is a strong and close friend of the United States, and is confronting grave threats from Gaza to Tehran. Jordan has been a close partner in the peace process and a host of other issues of common concern. France, Germany, and the United Kingdom are key anchors of the transatlantic alliance and have contributed to the mission in Afghanistan, and I look forward to discussing how we can strengthen our partnership in the years to come. This will be an important opportunity to have an exchange of views with leaders in these countries about these and other issues that are critical to American national security – and global security – in the 21st century.

John McCain has focused on security and foreign policy issues in his campaign, and he has challenged Obama in this area. A CNN poll has shown that voters favor McCain on foreign policy, one of the few issue categories where he leads the Illinois senator.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Targeted States: Nevada (2008-06-28 16:43)

Nevada is truly a swing state that both Al Gore and John Kerry lost by narrow margins. Gore lost by four points in 2000 and Kerry by three points in 2004.

An average of current polling shows that Barack Obama and John McCain are tied in the state, but McCain is winning a larger number of the surveys.

Nevada is logistically a rather simple state. A very strong grassroots operation in the Las Vegas metro area alone could be enough for victory. Reno, the second largest city in Nevada, is in many ways a carbon copy of Las Vegas with the casino industry and labor unions as dominant factors.

Although one would expect labor to vote strongly Democrat, Al Gore only picked about half the union vote in 2000. The state has a Republican governor and senator, and a Democratic senator, Harry Reid. The Nevada Assembly is ruled by Democrats, while the State Senate is controlled by Republicans.

Here is the polling data from RealClearPolitics:

Nevada: McCain vs. Obama (RealClearPolitics)

Polling Data

PollDateSampleMcCain (R)Obama (D)Spread

RCP Average 02/26 - 06/18 - 43.3 43.3 Tie

Rasmussen 06/18 - 06/18 500 LV 45 42 McCain +3.0 Mason-Dixon 06/09 - 06/11 625 LV 44 42 McCain +2.0 SurveyUSA 02/26 - 02/28 611 RV 41 46 Obama +5.0

See All Nevada: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data

Frank Sinatra, once a Democrat who turned Republican, is still an icon in Las Vegas, Reno and Lake Tahoe. And a lot of the Democrats here are rather soft in this way, hardly to be taken for granted as supporting the Democratic nominee. The Latino vote here is also very important. Latinos are the largest minority in the state. Hillary Clinton could be very helpful to Obama in securing this important voting bloc.

A Review Journal poll shows that the economy is easily the ranking issue among Nevada voters followed by Iraq and energy costs. Many people here, especially in Las Vegas, were hit hard by the mortgage meltdown.

Neighboring California can play a big role in winning Nevada. The Golden State can provide volunteers to work in Nevada, but that will require a strongly-entrenched local grassroots organization.

[EMBED]

Hillary in Unity, New Hampshire.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Slideshow: Unite for Change (2008-06-29 11:28)

Check out the Flickr slideshow of some of the more than 4,000 Unite for Change events held yesterday across the country.

The race against McCain will not be an easy one, and a unified effort is needed to assure Barack's victory in November.

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Supporters in Tallahassee, Florida

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[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Unite for Change (2008-06-29 19:41)

Here's a video of Unite For Change events in Evergreen, Colorado.

[EMBED]

Sherry had an event at Mason's Pub in Huntsville, Alabama. Here's what she said about the event.

Our event was great! We had over 100 Obama supporters congregate at Mason's Pub in downtown Huntsville, and by the end of the event, they were fired up and ready to go! Many people signed up to do volunteer work, with an emphasis on a huge voter registration drive for this State. We decided that Alabama would most definitely be a swing state this year. The nicest surprise of the afternoon was the appearance of the Chair of the Alabama Veterans for Obama, a lovely young man who had served in Iraq and who, like Barack, spoke to the best in us. We were also delighted when an Obama delegate and an alternate delegate blessed us with their presence. Of course, most of all it was about all the community of people this campaign is about, and the spirit of community we felt for two hours on a Saturday afternoon will last long after everyone separated for the day. Thank you Huntsville supporters, and thank you Barack and Michelle for a very special Day of Unity.

[EMBED]

Slideshow of Unite for Change meeting in Huntsville, Alabama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Painting for Obama in Sacramento (2008-06-29 21:39)

Sacramento for Obama held an art, wine and music fundraiser for Barack Obama that attracted 300 guests. Renowned artist David Garibaldi painted portraits of Barack and John F. Kennedy in a live performance. The paintings were auctioned off with part of the proceeds going to the Obama campaign. Here is the video of Garibaldi.

[EMBED]

<http://sacramentoforobama.com/>



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack – Deadline: Midnight (2008-06-30 08:28)

Sen. Barack Obama sent out this email today.

Dear Friend –

✕ Tonight is the crucial financial reporting deadline for June.

Your support has gotten us this far, and I am grateful. But I need your help to take on John McCain, the Republican National Committee, and the shady so-called 527 groups that are dedicated to attacking this campaign using millions of dollars in unregulated contributions.

Please support this movement by making a donation of \$25 by Midnight tonight:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/june30deadline>

Together we are setting a new standard for how presidential campaigns will be organized and funded.

For the first time in a generation, a presidential campaign is putting staff in every single state for the general election. Our staff and the Obama Organizing Fellows are getting to work right now to build on grassroots energy in all 50 states.

And – unlike John McCain – we're going to do it without contributions from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs that have held too much power for far too long in this country.

By putting our organizational and financial future in your hands, it's clear who will be responsible for our success and who we will be accountable to in the White House: the people.

But in order to match the resources of our opponents, we're going to have to do more and get more people involved than ever before. Your donation of \$25 right now will help make that happen:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/june30deadline>

I'm counting on you to take the lead and build this campaign.

The stakes couldn't be higher, and every American who hopes for something better from their government is counting on us.

Thank you,

Barack

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-06-30 13:37:00)

This week, the "What's The New What" video squad provides you with a handy dandy guide to international hand gestures. Think of it as a primer on sign language for the hip. Check out the link below to learn why:

Link: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=w3r00i0m44A>

Obama News on Monday (2008-06-30 14:18)

Check out the pictures in the Flickr slideshow showing Barack Obama in Independence, Missouri. Barack took a walk through town after his speech and then visited the old home of President Harry Truman that was known as the "Summer White House."

[EMBED]

Here are some photos from the speech earlier in the day. As the July 4th holiday nears, Barack spoke about patriotism, and why it is improper to quickly judge another's patriotism or lack thereof.

For a young man of mixed race, without firm anchor in any particular community, without even a father's steadying hand, it is this essential American idea – that we are not constrained by the accident of birth but can make of our lives what we will – that has defined my life, just as it has defined the life of so many other Americans.

That is why, for me, patriotism is always more than just loyalty to a place on a map or a certain kind of people. Instead, it is also loyalty to America's ideals – ideals for which anyone can sacrifice, or defend, or give their last full measure of devotion. I believe it is this loyalty that allows a country teeming with different races and ethnicities, religions and customs, to come together as one.

[EMBED]

The Obama campaign also released a new television ad campaign, the second for the general election. The ad entitled "Dignity" highlights the senator's work to help struggling workers and families.

[EMBED]

President Bill Clinton and Barack spoke today according to a press release from the Obama campaign. Spokesman Bill Burton said the two spoke for about 20 minutes by phone and had a "terrific conversation."

Burton said that Obama "has always believed that Bill Clinton is one of this nation's great leaders and most brilliant minds, and looks forward to seeing him on the campaign trail and receiving his counsel in the months to come."



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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McCain TV ads target Energy Policy (2008-06-30 20:57)

John McCain's recent television ad blitz is focused on energy policy and the environment as the three clips below attest.

Part of McCain's energy plan calls for building 45 new nuclear reactors by 2030.

While Barack's plan is open to nuclear energy if the present problems with that technology can be solved, his energy issues page does not include reactors as part of his program.

Plan for a Clean Energy Future

"Well, I don't believe that climate change is just an issue that's convenient to bring up during a campaign. I believe it's one of the greatest moral challenges of our generation. That's why I've fought successfully in the Senate to increase our investment in renewable fuels. That's why I reached across the aisle to come up with a plan to raise our fuel standards... And I didn't just give a speech about it in front of some environmental audience in California. I went to Detroit, I stood in front of a group of automakers, and I told them that when I am president, there will be no more excuses — we will help them retool their factories, but they will have to make cars that use less oil."

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, October 14, 2007

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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2.7 July

Sen. Obama meets with Gen. Powell (2008-07-02 07:48)

News reports indicate that Barack Obama is scheduled to have two meetings with former Secretary of State Colin Powell. General Powell is a former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first African American to serve as Secretary of State. The two had met privately already on June 18.

Previously, Powell has made positive statements about Obama despite the fact that he is a Republican fueling speculation that he might endorse the Illinois senator. It is widely believed that Powell became disenchanted while serving in George W. Bush's administration over the intelligence information he received and used to justify the Iraq War. Some have even wondered whether Powell might be offered the VP slot although most consider it unlikely that two African Americans on the same ticket would be a good idea.

It should also be noted that Powell has made recent positive statements concerning Sen. John McCain.

The Powell meeting might also fuel some backlash that has been flaming up among Obama's more progressive-leading supporters. There has been increasing talk that Barack is moving more toward the "center" in an attempt to attract more conservative voters.

Of course, this is a fairly common electoral strategy, but some may see it as contrary to the message of change espoused by the Obama campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Voter registration at Vans Warped Tour (2008-07-02 15:29)

Supporters of Barack Obama registered hundreds of people at the Vans Warped Tour at Mile High Stadium in Denver, Colorado on July 1, 2008.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Targeted States: Florida (2008-07-02 20:40)

Florida has been a tough state for Democrats in the last two presidential elections and the race looks very tight for 2008.

The state has a Republican governor and both a Democrat and Republican senator. Both the Florida State Senate and State House of Representatives are controlled by Republicans. The Florida delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 16 Republicans and 9 Democrats.

Florida, of course, was the scene of the 'hanging chad' controversy during the 2000 election when Al Gore barely lost the state costing him the election.

Presently, the RealClearPolitics average of recent polls shows John McCain ahead of Barack Obama by 2.2 points.

Florida: McCain vs. Obama

Polling Data

PollDateSampleMcCain (R)Obama (D)Spread

RCP Average 06/09 - 06/29 - 46.0 43.8 McCain +2.2 Strategic Vision (R) 06/27 - 06/29 1200 LV 49 41

McCain +8.0 PPP (D) 06/26 - 06/29 723 LV 44 46 Obama +2.0 Rasmussen 06/26 - 06/26 500 LV 48 41

McCain +7.0 Quinnipiac 06/09 - 06/16 1453 LV 43 47 Obama +4.0

See All Florida: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data

Two tough crowds in Florida for Obama are Cuban and Jewish Americans. Many conservative Cubans appear less than thrilled with Obama's more open approach toward the country's southern neighbor. The Illinois senator also may be weaker than either Gore or Kerry among Jewish voters. This fact may be complicated by the fact that Sen. Joe Lieberman, a conservative Jew who ran as Al Gore's VP, will be campaigning for McCain.

Florida also has many older voters including a huge population of retirees, who generally have not been as favorable toward Obama.

However, as in most other states, the economy is the top issue for Florida voters followed by Iraq. With many of Florida's voters on fixed incomes, the rising costs of fuel and food are worrisome, and offer an opening for the Obama campaign by concentrating people's attention on the failed Bush, and by extension, McCain economic policy.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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vorpie (2008-07-03 02:30:00)

Did you see the vid of McCain getting rick rolled on the Daily show?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ZV2EFcfCw>

Targeted States: Wisconsin (2008-07-03 09:12)

Wisconsin was the scene of two cliffhangers in 2000 and 2004.

In 2000, Al Gore beat George W. Bush by just two-tenths of a percentage point. In 2004, Kerry won by just half of a percentage point.

While it's still early, the polls so far look very good for Barack Obama in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin: McCain vs. Obama (RealClearPolitics)

Polling Data

PollDateSampleObama (D)McCain (R)Spread

RCP Average 06/05 - 06/24 - 49.8 40.5 Obama +9.3 Quinnipiac/WSJ/WP 06/17 - 06/24 1537 LV 52 39

Obama +13.0 SurveyUSA 06/13 - 06/16 538 LV 52 43 Obama +9.0 U. of WI 06/08 - 06/10 506 LV 50 37

Obama +13.0 Rasmussen 06/05 - 06/05 500 LV 45 43 Obama +2.0

See All Wisconsin: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data

Barack will get a lot of help in Wisconsin. The governor, James Doyle Jr., is a Democrat and an early Obama supporter. Both of the state's U.S. Senators are Democrats – Russell D. Feingold and Herb Kohl.

Five of the state's eight U.S. Representatives are Democrats, and the State Senate is ruled by Democrats. It is only in the State Assembly that Republicans dominate.

Wisconsin is one of those industrial states, like Ohio and Pennsylvania, that has been hit particularly hard by the loss of manufacturing jobs. There are some analysts who believe these states should be easy wins for Obama given the dire economic situation.

Another good sign for Obama is that Democrats turned out in much larger numbers than Republicans during the primary:

Voter Turnout during Feb. 19 Primary 1,099,661 (D)

403,568 (R)

1,503,229 (Total)

Wisconsin ranked 2nd overall in voter turnout for young people between 18 and 29 during 2004. Obama is strong among young voters and should focus on getting the youth vote out in 2008.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama and FISA (2008-07-03 15:48)

The Obama official website posted the response of Sen. Barack Obama to the opposition of his support of the FISA compromise. Some Obama supporters had even signed a petition asking the senator to change his position.

In an unusual display of responsiveness to his base, three members of Obama's staff, Danielle Gray, a Deputy National Policy Director, Denis McDonough, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor, and Ben Rhodes, Foreign Policy Advisor and Senior Speechwriter, answered questions from readers of the official website blog.

I want to take this opportunity to speak directly to those of you who oppose my decision to support the FISA compromise.

This was not an easy call for me. I know that the FISA bill that passed the House is far from perfect. I wouldn't have drafted the legislation like this, and it does not resolve all of the concerns that we have about President Bush's abuse of executive power. It grants retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that may have violated the law by cooperating with the Bush Administration's program of warrantless wiretapping. This potentially weakens the deterrent effect of the law and removes an important tool for the American people to demand accountability for past abuses. That's why I support striking Title II from the bill, and will work with Chris Dodd, Jeff Bingaman and others in an effort to remove this provision in the Senate.

But I also believe that the compromise bill is far better than the Protect America Act that I voted against last year. The exclusivity provision makes it clear to any President or telecommunications company that no law supersedes the authority of the FISA court. In a dangerous world, government must have the authority to collect the intelligence we need to protect the American people. But in a free society, that authority cannot be unlimited. As I've said many times, an independent monitor must watch the watchers to prevent abuses and to protect the civil liberties of the American people. This compromise law assures that the FISA court has that responsibility.

The Inspectors General report also provides a real mechanism for accountability and should not be discounted. It will allow a close look at past misconduct without hurdles that would exist in federal court because of classification issues. The recent investigation uncovering the illegal politicization of Justice Department hiring sets a strong example of the accountability that can come from a tough and thorough IG report.

The ability to monitor and track individuals who want to attack the United States is a vital counter-terrorism tool, and I'm persuaded that it is necessary to keep the American people safe – particularly since certain electronic surveillance orders will begin to expire later this summer. Given the choice between voting for an improved yet imperfect bill, and losing important surveillance tools, I've chosen to support the current compromise. I do so with the firm intention – once I'm sworn in as President – to have my Attorney General conduct a comprehensive review of all our surveillance programs, and to make further recommendations on any steps needed to preserve civil liberties and to prevent executive branch abuse in the future.

Now, I understand why some of you feel differently about the current bill, and I'm happy to take my lumps on this side and elsewhere. For the truth is that your organizing, your activism and your passion is an important reason why this bill is better than previous versions. No tool has been more important in focusing peoples' attention on the abuses of executive power in this Administration than the active and sustained engagement of American citizens. That holds true – not just on wiretapping, but on a range of issues where Washington has let the American people down.

I learned long ago, when working as an organizer on the South Side of Chicago, that when citizens join their voices together, they can hold their leaders accountable. I'm not exempt from that. I'm certainly not perfect, and expect to be held accountable too. I cannot promise to agree with you on every issue. But I do promise to listen to your concerns, take them seriously, and seek to earn your ongoing support to change the country. That is why we have built the largest grassroots campaign in the history of presidential politics, and that is the kind of White House that I intend to run as President of the United States – a White House that takes the Constitution seriously, conducts the peoples' business out in the open, welcomes and listens to dissenting views, and asks you to play your part in shaping our country's destiny.

Democracy cannot exist without strong differences. And going forward, some of you may decide that my FISA position is a deal breaker. That's ok. But I think it is worth pointing out that our agreement on the vast majority of issues that matter outweighs the differences we may have. After all, the choice in

this election could not be clearer. Whether it is the economy, foreign policy, or the Supreme Court, my opponent has embraced the failed course of the last eight years, while I want to take this country in a new direction. Make no mistake: if John McCain is elected, the fundamental direction of this country that we love will not change. But if we come together, we have an historic opportunity to chart a new course, a better course.

So I appreciate the feedback through my.barackobama.com, and I look forward to continuing the conversation in the months and years to come. Together, we have a lot of work to do.



Obama advisers taking questions from participants at barackobama.com.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Barack Obama reaffirms Iraq War Stance (2008-07-03 20:15)

After saying that he might 'refine' his Iraq withdrawal plan during a talk with veterans in Fargo, North Dakota, Barack Obama called a news conference to clarify his position.

Barack reiterated his commitment to begin an immediate withdrawal upon taking office on a schedule that should be completed in about 16 months. The hasty press conference might indicate that the Obama campaign is trying to squash perceptions that Barack is 'soft' on his stances and will not follow through when confronted with actual command decisions.

Here is the video of the meeting with reporters.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



JaaJoe (2008-07-04 00:33:00)

I think it's pretty hilarious that Obama thinks he can talk Ahmadinejad down. It really shows some ignorance of there culture. I just read a really good article,Should The President of the United States Talk to Ahmadinejad? , that does a pretty good job explaining why this probably wouldn't have great results.

Barack Obama talks about Veterans in Fargo (2008-07-04 09:00)

Sen. Barack Obama talks about veterans in Fargo, North Dakota yesterday.

[EMBED]

Barack supports a new GI Bill for veterans, and plans expansion and improvements to the Veterans Administration when he takes office. He will also have a zero-tolerance policy for homeless veterans sleeping on the streets.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-07-06 02:08:00)

John Kerry, you're off the hook. John Edwards, we're giving you a well-deserved break. You guys were great flip-floppers in your day, but now you've been seriously upstaged. All hail the new King of Flip-Flop - Barack Obama.

As a rookie flip-flopper, Obama first drew the attention of the environmental lobby about this time last year:

Although summer hasn't officially begun, flip-flop season is well underway and it appears Senator Obama has joined the club. Typically flip-floppers are criticized for their inability to stay firm on an issue, but in Obama's case, his flop has many environmentalists flipping back his way.

On Tuesday Obama, whose support for coal-to-liquid has been widely criticized by environmentalists, sent out a press release clarifying his position on liquid coal:

Senator Obama supports research into all technologies to help solve our climate change and energy dependence problems, including shifting our energy use to renewable fuels and investing in technology that could make coal a clean-burning source of energy...However, unless and until this technology is perfected, Senator Obama will not support the development of any coal-to-liquid fuels unless they emit at least 20 % less life-cycle carbon than conventional fuels.

This "clarification" is an important step for the Obama campaign in trying to gain support from environmental organizations and voters.

For the Candidate of Hope and Change, there were bigger and better flip-flops yet to come. As his campain began to toss Obama's positions on issue after issue under the bus, the Senate's most liberal member made quite an impression on the Washington Post. Back in February, WaPo cited these "Top Obama Flip-Flops":

1. Special interests In January, the Obama campaign described union contributions to the campaigns of Clinton and John Edwards as "special interest" money. Obama changed his tune as he began gathering his own union endorsements. He now refers respectfully to unions as the representatives of "working people" and says he is "thrilled" by their support.
2. Public financing Obama replied "yes" in September 2007 when asked if he would agree to public financing of the presidential election if his GOP opponent did the same. Obama has now attached several conditions to such an agreement, including regulating spending by outside groups. His spokesman says the candidate never committed himself on the matter.
3. The Cuba embargo In January 2004, Obama said it was time "to end the embargo with Cuba" because it had "utterly failed in the effort to overthrow Castro." Speaking to a Cuban American audience in Miami in August 2007, he said he would not "take off the embargo" as president because it is "an important inducement for change."
4. Illegal immigration In a March 2004 questionnaire, Obama was asked if the government should "crack down on businesses that hire illegal immigrants." He replied "Oppose." In a Jan. 31, 2008, televised debate, he said that "we do have to crack down on those employers that are taking advantage of the situation."

5. Decriminalization of marijuana While running for the U.S. Senate in January 2004, Obama told Illinois college students that he supported eliminating criminal penalties for marijuana use. In the Oct. 30, 2007, presidential debate, he joined other Democratic candidates in opposing the decriminalization of marijuana.

Top flip-flops? Pshaw, that was nearly four full months ago, and the man was just getting warmed up. And Obama's squirming on campaign finance hadn't even gotten off the ground. The New York Post recently ripped Obama for flipping on this and some other issues as well:

This isn't the first time Obama has, um, "changed" political lanes:

He ripped Hillary Clinton for months for voting to list Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization. Days after Clinton conceded, Obama flipped and said he supported the definition.

Obama repeatedly vowed to meet with various heads of terror states - most notably Ahmadinejad of Iran - "without preconditions." Then, with the nomination in sight, he zigzagged: "There's no reason why we would necessarily meet with Ahmadinejad. He's not the most powerful person in Iran."

In October, he supported NAFTA expansion. In March, campaigning in the Ohio primary, he called for a "reopening" of the trade pact's terms. This week, he called his own primary rhetoric "overheated" and said NAFTA has had a positive effect on the US economy.

Yesterday, after signaling opposition to nuclear power, he told Democratic governors he's open to expanding it.

That Obama is now the King of Flip-Flop will come as a surprise only to his devoted followers who have been too busy swooning over him to notice. Those of us not so easily smitten could have predicted this turn of events. In fact, some did. Consider this blogger who - in a post from August of 2007 titled "Obama The Anti-War Candidate NOW Says He'll Invade Another Country!" - predicted:

I guarantee this guy is going to turn into the flip-flopping candidate just like his buddy Kerry did in 2003, 2004.

Obama's flip-flop on campaign finance was one that did manage to capture the attention of Mark Shields, a liberal columnist who, unlike most of his peers, still has some integrity.

Barack Obama made history this week. He became the first presidential nominee since Richard Nixon in 1972 to state that his campaign will be funded totally by private donations with no limits on spending.

It was a flip-flop of epic proportions. It was one that he could not rationalize or justify. His video was unconvincing. He looked like someone who was being kept as a hostage somewhere he was so absolutely unconvincing in it. It could not have passed a polygraph test.

I mean, coming up with this bogus argument the Republicans have so much more money - the Republicans don't have so much more money. He's raised three times as much as John McCain has.

He has every possible committee, except Republican National Committee, Democrats at the Senate level, congressional level have this lopsided edge over Republicans. They spent three times as much, did Democratic leaning 527s, in the last election as did Republicans.

So what Obama didn't admit was, up until February of this year, when he told Tim Russert that not only would he aggressively seek an agreement on public financing, that he personally would sit down with John McCain and work it out, then, all of a sudden, they realized that all these small contributions were coming in and he was going to have a financial advantage in the fall against the Republican, and they grabbed it.

Hat Tip: NewsBusters' Noel Sheppard

Name an issue. Chances are, Obama has flipped on it. Jerusalem?

Within 24 hours of expressing his firm support for a united Jerusalem in a speech to a pro-Israel lobby organization, US Senator Barack Obama found himself forced to backtrack in the face of Arab anger on Thursday.

Debates with John McCain? Here's Obama before McCain challenged him to a series of town hall debates:

If John McCain wants to meet me anywhere, anytime, to have a debate about our respective policies in Iraq, Iran, the Middle East or around the world, that is a conversation I am happy to have.

Here's an Obama spokesperson after:

Mr. Plouffe called the McCain campaign's offer "appealing," but said they would prefer a format that is "less structured and lengthier than the McCain campaign suggests, one that more closely resembles the historic debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas."

Oh, well. So much for "anywhere, anytime." Obama fears going mano a mano with McCain on McCain's terms. No one would blame Obama for holding out for a more favorable deal, if only he had not said, "Anywhere, anytime."

If campaign finance was the most opportunistic of Obama's flip-flops, this one has to be the most disingenuous: In 2007, his campaign told the Chicago Tribune he believed the Washington, D.C. gun ban was constitutional. Now they say that was an "inartful" explanation. Now, the public is supposed to believe the message of the day from the Obama campaign, which is that of course he knew the gun ban was unconstitutional. Obama seems to be working hard to make John Kerry look like a straight-shooter. Now plenty of people oppose gun rights (I am not one of them), and if Obama really is one of these, why play politics with such a fundamental issue? Oh wait, playing politics with issues is what Barack Obama does.

-snip-

- Obama wants to reimpose a federal gun ban.
- Obama voted against the sale of almost all ammunition used regularly for sport shooting and hunting.
- Obama opposes Right to Carry laws.
- Obama supports a complete ban on hand-gun ownership.

So now the King of Flip-Flop seems to want to run up the score. That worked so well for John Kerry in 2004, don't you think?

Anonymous (2008-07-06 02:09:00)

Oh my! Are the pieces of the puzzle falling into place about Obama? The truth always comes out in time.

- 1) Refuses to wear an American Flag lapel pin.
- 2) Doesn't put his hand over his heart.
- 3) His wife has never been proud of America as an adult until now.
- 4) Farrakhan now endorses Obama.
- 5) The picture is out.
- 6) I read somewhere that he is not a strong supporter of Israel.

This is so scary. What kind of change is he talking about? I believe our country was founded on christian values and we need to make sure that it stays that way. These 6 items may not be anything important-but We cannot gamble with this.

Obama claims to be for all American's and that he will unite the Blue and Red States by winning over Republicans and Independents. So, how does Obama plan to reach out to win over Republicans and Independents in these states?

Here is how Obama is reaching out so far. He refuses to display the traditions of Republicans and Independents.

He refuses to wear an American flag lapel pin.

He refuses to place his hand on his heart when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.

He does not salute the US Flag.

His wife claims she has been really proud of her country only once in her adult life.

A diplomat would never insult a foreign country by behaving as Obama does in HIS OWN COUNTRY.

How can we have a Commander in Chief that is uncomfortable wearing an American Flag lapel pin, but is right at home in Muslim garb?

Obama is losing to McCain in the key and crossover red states. With Obamas crass attitude, there is no way he will win over Republicans or Independents there.

Obama will lose the General Election in one of the biggest landslides. That will be the end of his career and thank God for that.

Targeted States: Virginia (2008-07-04 14:29)

Virginia has voted for the Republican candidate in every presidential election except 1964, when Lyndon B. Johnson won, since 1952. The state voted for George W. Bush over both Al Gore Jr. and John Kerry by a little over eight percent of the vote.

However, the state is in play for Barack Obama in 2008 according to most pundits. During the primary, we saw a significantly large number of Democrats voting as compared to Republicans.

Voter turnout during 2008 Virginia Primary 973,931 (D)
475,484 (R)
1,449,415 (Total)

Virginia has a Democratic governor, Tim Kaine, and its first Democratic senator since 2001 in Jim Webb who beat incumbent George Allen in 2007. Webb's campaign platform included opposition to the Iraq War. The Virginia State House of Delegates is ruled by Republicans while Democrats dominate the State Senate. McCain has a slight lead according the RealClearPolitics average of recent polls, but Obama has won three of the four most recent surveys.

Virginia: McCain vs. Obama

Polling Data

PollDateSampleMcCain (R)Obama (D)Spread

RCP Average 05/12 - 06/22 - 45.0 44.3 McCain +0.7 SurveyUSA 06/20 - 06/22 630 LV 47 49 Obama +2.0

PPP (D) 06/14 - 06/16 893 LV 45 47 Obama +2.0 Rasmussen 06/12 - 06/12 500 LV 44 45 Obama +1.0 VCU

05/12 - 05/18 852 RV 44 36 McCain +8.0

See All Virginia: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data

Both Tim Kaine and Jim Webb have been suggested as possible running mates for Barack Obama, and both will be very helpful in helping him contest the state of Virginia.

Obama might also benefit from the fact that evangelicals, a powerful force in Virginia, are far from excited about John McCain, who has sparred with evangelicals in the past.

Virginia has a large African American population, and, for a southern state, a surprising large number of people who oppose the Iraq War . Large turnout among both groups could decide this state.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The McCain Strategy (2008-07-05 11:22)

We can examine a bit of what John McCain might be planning for the general election.

The McCain campaign has opened 10 offices:

Pennsylvania & Ohio Regional Headquarters

Columbus, OH

NJ and NY Regional Headquarters & The New Jersey State Office

Woodbridge, NJ

New England Regional Headquarters

Manchester, NH

Mid-Atlantic Regional Headquarters and Virginia State Office
Arlington, VA

South Central Regional Headquarters
Centennial, CO

Midwest Regional Headquarters
Urbandale, IA

Great Lakes Regional Headquarters & Michigan State Office
Farmington Hills, MI

North Mountain Regional Headquarters and Minnesota State Office
Saint Paul, MN

Southwest Regional Headquarters
Phoenix, AZ

West Regional Headquarters & Nevada State Office
Henderson, NV

The calendar events at McCain's website indicates that they will also be opening an office soon in California:

Upcoming McCain Campaign Events Town Hall Meeting in Portsmouth, OH – 07-09

California

Campaign

HQ Grand Opening – 07-09

Town Hall Meeting in Albuquerque, NM – 07-15

Whether the California office is primarily designed to raise funds, or whether McCain believes that he can really take the Golden State, maybe with the help of the state's governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, is hard to say.

Generally, we can expect that the locations of the offices and headquarters indicate the states that McCain will be targeting up to this point.

JohnMcCain.com also lists four groups for special interests:

- Veterans for McCain – Leveraging McCain's own illustrious military service
- Women for McCain – Obviously aiming at disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters
- Lawyers for McCain – Maybe for fundraising? Both Barack and Michelle are lawyers
- Sportsmen for
McCain -
- NRA gun vote

Here is McCain's campaign strategist Rick Davis on their own plan (June 7, 2008):
[EMBED]

So far, it looks like the McCain camp is still searching around for the right issues as it hasn't focused its message yet. Knowing what the McCain camp is doing at all times, is essential knowledge that the Obama side will need to plan their own strategy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



tomabrahams (2008-07-05 19:19:00)
have you seen the new obama video?
<http://thevote.abc13.com/2008/07/another-obama-p.html>

Vote for Change in Philadelphia (2008-07-06 08:51)

The Vote for Change effort continues to register and mobilize new voters in all 50 states. Barack Obama and his supporters have had great success in bringing in people who had never been involved in the political process before. These new voters and volunteers will play a key role in winning the general election.

Here's a post from Amanda Scott at the official blog on registration events in Philadelphia on July 4.

Vote for Change: July 4th In Philadelphia

by Amanda Scott,

Saturday, July 05, 2008 at 09:32 PM



David in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been active in voter registration efforts since March. And yesterday he held three events, at the Party on the Parkway, the local July 4th Parade, and the fireworks show. Each of these events is part of the "Welcome America Festival" held in Philadelphia for a week.

I chose this week to do voter registration because Welcome America draws huge crowds, especially on the night of the 4th and 5th, when there are fireworks. We had 61 volunteers sign up to help at the events today, although because it started raining around 7pm, only about 12 showed up.



Despite the rain, we got a total of 112 registrations for the day. People seemed eager to register, probably because the connection between the holiday and the idea of civic participation and patriotism.



I started doing voter registration back in March, for the Pennsylvania primary. I stood on the corner next to the grocery store near my house and registered 394 people over the course of 10 days. When I wasn't doing voter registrations, I was in the Philadelphia headquarters doing data entry and voter protection.

After the Primary in Pennsylvania, David traveled to North Carolina to help with the Get Out The Vote efforts. He then got involved with the local volunteers in Philadelphia.

I attended the kickoff for Vote for Change and have tried to either organize or attend a voter registration event every week. I really love doing voter registration because I find it satisfying to have a tangible result - a stack of completed forms - at the end of the event. Also, people really seem to appreciate that you are out there volunteering and helping others vote.

Philadelphia has a lot of colorful characters, and I like interacting with people on the street and answering their questions about voting, if I can. We've really increased Democratic voter registration in Pennsylvania since last year, and I feel like we will do even better as the summer goes by. My goal is to help Sen. Obama win Pennsylvania by a record margin of victory.

Nothing is more patriotic than making your voice heard by voting. Like David says increasing Democratic voters can make the difference this November. Sign up for a voter registration event in your town and then tell us about it at blog@barackobama.com. And if you attended an event this weekend, send us your pictures at photos@barackobama.com.

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McCain targets California? (2008-07-06 16:48)

Rick Davis, the campaign manager of John McCain, has said that he believes his candidate can win California. They're even opening up a headquarters in the Golden State.

Is this serious, or perhaps just a ploy to force Barack Obama to waste resources in California?

Yes, we have a Republican governor here but he happens to be a major Hollywood celebrity, and celebrities routinely transcend normal electoral equations. McCain, though, is no celebrity.

Besides Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, every statewide executive office is held by a Democrat. The Republicans only hold a few district-wide seats on the Board of Equalization. Both the State Assembly and State Senate are ruled by Democrats.

The congressional delegation is dominated by Democrats including both U.S. Senators - Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. The state's cities are mainly run by Democrats.

Barack enjoys wide double digit leads in the polls.

California: McCain vs. Obama

Polling Data

PollDateSampleObama (D)McCain (R)Spread

RCP Average 05/12 - 06/23 - 52.8 36.6 Obama +16.2 Rasmussen 06/23 - 06/23 500 LV 58 30 Obama +28.0

SurveyUSA 06/17 - 06/19 503 LV 53 41 Obama +12.0 Field 05/16 - 05/27 914 LV 52 35 Obama +17.0 LA

Times/KTLA 05/20 - 05/21 705 RV 47 40 Obama +7.0 PPIC 05/12 - 05/18 1086 LV 54 37 Obama +17.0

See All California: McCain vs. Obama Polling Data

McCain has not won any polls against Obama in California and has always lost well above the margin of error.

The only thing I can think of is that McCain's handlers may think that Californians will say one thing in the opinion

surveys and do another thing in the privacy of the voting booth – when the candidate is black. This idea originates from the gubernatorial bids of Tom Bradley more than two decades ago. Bradley would lead in the polls but then on election day would end up coming up short. The conclusion of many pundits was that white voters could not 'close the deal' with a black candidate in such a high office. A lot of things have changed though since that time. For example, the state is much more liberal now, comparable to the days of Gov. Jerry Brown. The Latino and Asian Pacific Islander votes are much more important than they were when Bradley was running. Indeed, Davies does mention the Latino vote when discussing McCain's California strategy. He thinks that the Arizona senator's record on immigration reform and his proximity to southern California can help him win over the state's Latinos. I think its a tall order though. Again, if we ignore the understandable Arnold exception, no statewide Republican has been able to woo Latinos in the big races. The API vote is also pretty solidly Democrat now as compared to just a decade ago.

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(2008-07-06 21:44)

The John McCain camp is starting to feel some heat over the situation in Afghanistan and the rise of radical Islamism in North Africa. Barack Obama has argued that the Iraq War has diverted resources from attacking the heart of the al-Qaeda organization.

X

GulfNews

As Afghanistan boils, McCain keeps focus on Iraq
Christian Science Monitor - 7 hours ago

For voters, a resurgent Taliban may challenge McCain's view that Iraq is the center of the war on terror. By Ariel Sabar | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor WASHINGTON - John McCain has called Iraq the "central front" of the

war on terror, ...

McCain Camp Hits Obama Again FOXNews

Lieberman: Obama 'shifting' United Press International

Obama opts for larger nomination venue (2008-07-07 08:10)

In a break from tradition, the Democratic Party announced that Barack Obama will accept the party's nomination at a separate venue than that used for the Democratic Convention in Denver.

The event will be held at the Invesco Stadium in Mile High, which holds more than 75,000 people, a much larger capacity than the Pepsi Center where the convention is held. With more people in the audience, Obama's speech is expected to have a major PR impact.

"The Democratic Party is nominating a true change candidate this August, and it is only fitting that we make some big changes in how we put on the Convention," said Gov. Howard Dean, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

A special block of seats will be reserved at the event for Colorado residents who present the proper credentials.

X

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Obama plane sidetracked, speech delivered in St. Louis (2008-07-07 14:38)

Sen. Obama's plane made an unscheduled landing in St. Louis, Missouri to address a maintenance issue. He was scheduled to make a speech in North Carolina on his economic plan for the middle class.

Instead he called a press conference in St. Louis and delivered the speech there. Here is the text of the speech as prepared for delivery.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama
An Agenda for Middle-Class Success
Press Avail
Monday, July 7th, 2008
St. Louis, Missouri
As prepared for delivery

Since we had to change venues this morning, I just want to speak briefly about the economy for a few minutes and then I'll take your questions.

This is going to be a defining issue in this campaign, because Senator McCain and I have very different views of where our economy is today, and where we need to go.

Senator McCain said earlier this year that America has made "great progress economically" over the past eight years. He believes we're on the right track, and he's launching a new economic tour today with policies that are very much the same as those we have seen from the Bush Administration.

In fact, the central component of Senator McCain's economic plan is \$300 billion more in tax cuts for big corporations and multimillionaires – less than a quarter of which will benefit the 80 % of American

families that make up the bulk of our middle-class. Less than a quarter.

Under Senator McCain's economic plan, Exxon Mobil – a company that recently reported the biggest profit in history – would get \$1.2 billion in tax breaks, while less than a quarter of the benefits would go to the middle-class. What's worse – he has no concrete plan to pay for these tax breaks, so his policies would actually add more than \$2 or \$3 trillion to the national debt over the next decade and weaken our economy even further. If this sounds familiar, it's because it's exactly what George Bush has done for the last eight years.

Now, I won't stand here and pretend that we can or should undo the economic transformations that have taken place over the last few decades. There are jobs that aren't coming back and this world will always be more competitive. But I do believe that if all of us are willing to share the burdens and benefits of this new economy, then all of us will prosper – not just because government makes it so, but because we're willing to take responsibility as individuals to work harder and think more and innovate further.

Last week I outlined an agenda to keep America competitive by providing all Americans with a world-class education, investing in researching and innovation, devising an energy policy that creates job and reduces our oil dependence, and making sure that our trade policies work for American workers.

But today I want to talk about my plan to not only ensure the economic security of middle-class families in the short-term, but to give them the chance to achieve economic success in the long-term; to make sure that Americans aren't just getting by, but getting ahead – that they're able to get a world-class education, build a nest egg and provide a better life for their children.

The first step is to offer immediate relief to families who are struggling right now while helping to jump-start economic growth and create jobs. Between a sluggish economy and gas prices rising above \$4 a gallon, the American people cannot wait another six months for help. Instead of Washington gimmicks like a three-month gas tax holiday that will only pad oil company profits, we need to do what I called for months ago and pass a second stimulus package that provides energy rebate checks for working families, a fund to help families avoid foreclosure, and increased assistance for states that have been hard-hit by the economic downturn. A few days ago I called on Senator McCain and all members of Congress to come together – Republicans and Democrats – in support of this \$50 billion stimulus package. There are many policies we'll disagree on, but immediate relief for families who are struggling shouldn't be one of them. And so while I haven't received a response from Senator McCain yet, I look forward to hearing one soon. The second step in my agenda is to help provide economic security for families who've been dealing with skyrocketing costs and stagnant wages for years. I believe it's time to reform our tax code so that it rewards work and not just wealth. So when I'm President, I'll shut down the corporate loopholes and tax havens, and I'll use the money to help pay for a middle-class tax cut that will provide \$1,000 of relief to 95 % of workers and their families. We'll also eliminate income taxes for every retiree making less than \$50,000 per year, because every senior deserves to live out their life in dignity and respect.

And if Senator McCain wants a debate about taxes in this campaign, that's a debate I'm happy to have. Because if you're a family making less than \$250,000, my plan will not raise your taxes – not your income taxes, not your payroll taxes, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes. In fact, what Senator McCain should explain is why his tax cut for the middle class would leave out 101 million households, and why, for families that are lucky enough to get the tax cut, it would be worth only about \$125 in the first year. The difference is – he trusts that prosperity will trickle down from corporations and the wealthiest few to everyone else. I believe that it's the hard work of middle-class Americans that fuels this nation's prosperity.

I'll also help families who are struggling under the crushing burden of health care costs by passing a plan that brings the typical family's premiums down by \$2500 and guarantees coverage to everyone who wants it. Senator McCain's health care plan not only fails to cover every American and holds out less hope of cutting health care costs, it would actually tax your health care benefits for the first time ever. Over time this tax would grow and after just a few years it would be so large that middle-class families would face an overall tax increase from his plans. So that is a real choice in this election.

As we help families deal with rising costs, we also have to help those families who find themselves mired

in credit card debt. That's why I'll establish a Credit Card Bill of Rights that will ban unilateral changes to credit card agreements; ban rate hikes on debt people already had; and ban interest charges on late fees. I'll also reform our bankruptcy laws to make sure that if you can demonstrate that you went bankrupt because of medical expenses, you can relieve that debt and get back on your feet.

But even as we take these steps, we also know that it's not enough to just get families back on their feet. We need to help hardworking families get ahead. That's why the third step in my agenda is to give families the help they need to build that nest egg and provide a better life for their children.

To make saving easier, we'll automatically enroll every worker in a workplace pension plan that stays with you from job to job. And for working families who earn under \$75,000, we will start that nest egg by matching 50 percent of the first \$1,000 you save and depositing it directly into their account.

To make a college education affordable for every American family, we'll provide \$4,000 of tuition if students will provide community or national service when they graduate. To make it easier for families to own their own home and stay in that home, we'll crack down on predatory lenders, help more Americans refinance their mortgages, and provide ten million homeowners a mortgage tax credit that will take ten percent off their interest rate.

To help those mothers and fathers who are juggling work and family, I'll expand the Child Care Tax Credit, extend the Family Medical Leave Act, and make sure that every worker in America has access to seven days of paid sick leave. I'll make sure that women get equal pay for an equal day's work. And to help those families who own small businesses that are the engine of prosperity in America, I will eliminate all capital gains taxes on start-ups and small businesses to encourage more innovation and job creation.

There is no doubt that this agenda is ambitious. It will take resources in the wake of policies our debt like a war in Iraq that's costing us \$10 billion a month. But the answer to our fiscal problems is not to short-change investments that will help our families get ahead – investments that are vital to our long-term growth as a nation. The answer is to make sure that we are finding a way to pay for these investments but cutting where we can. My plan is detailed and specific when it comes to cutting spending. In fact, all my new spending proposals would be more than paid for by spending reductions. I have a plan to responsibly end the war in Iraq and reduce overpayments for private plans in Medicare, something John McCain has no specific plan to do. I would also curb subsidies to banks making student loans, return earmarks to their 2001 levels and reform no-bid contracts. I do this because I believe we can have a smarter government that pays its way while investing in our country's future.

The Americans I've met over the last sixteen months may come from different places and have different backgrounds, but they hold common hopes and dream the same simple dreams. They know government can't solve all their problems, and they don't expect it to. They believe in personal responsibility, and hard work, and self-reliance. They don't like seeing their tax dollars wasted.

But we also believe in fairness and opportunity – in an America where jobs are there for the willing; where hard work is rewarded with a decent living; where no matter how much you start with or where you come from or who your parents are, you can not just get by, but actually get ahead. That's the promise of this country, and I believe we can keep that promise together if we change course and get to work in the months and years ahead. Thank you.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-07-07 20:07:00)

i saw him get off the plane today live on fox news. it was exhilarating.
buy obama stickers to show your support

Video: Barack and Michelle (2008-07-07 20:19)

Here's Barack Obama's speech today on economic policy, diverted from North Carolina to St. Louis, Missouri, where his plane had to land for maintenance.

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama was interviewed today on ABC's Good Morning America. Here's the YouTube clip.

[EMBED]

Also, here's the article from the ABC News website:

Michelle Obama's Passions

Wife, Mother, Intellectual, American Woman

by CLAIRE SHIPMAN, SUSAN RUCCI and EMILY YACUS

July 7, 2008



As this November's presidential election draws closer, many people want to know more about Michelle Obama. Who is this mother of two, who rose from the rough South Side of Chicago to become a force in her own right during this crucial run for the White House? And what drives her? One way to figure this out is to ask the people who have known her the longest, her family and friends.

More Photos

They seem to be held in awe.

Close friend and businesswoman Valerie Jarrett says, "I don't think I've ever met anybody quite like Michelle."

"She's very genuine," says friend and fellow parent Yvonne Dalia, while her college roommate describes her as "your best girlfriend."

And her brother says simply, "She's good at what she's good at."

This is the puzzle that is Michelle Obama, the Target-shopping, blunt-talking, Jimmy Choo-wearing, fist-bumping potential first lady, as seen through the eyes of those closest to her.

Related



WATCH: The First Wives Club



Michelle Obama Looks to Soften Image



Michelle Obama in for 'Very Ugly Stuff'

Her defining passions, her friends say, started early. As a little girl on Chicago's South Side, she had, some would say, an obsession with achievement.

Her mother, Marian Robinson, said her children could do anything, and their father inspired them. As a city worker who was debilitated by multiple sclerosis, Fraser Robinson commanded respect.

"When you see a guy who gets up every day and goes to work and it's hard for him," said Obama's only brother, Craig Robinson, "it makes it hard for a teenager to lay around all day."

The Robinsons expected their children to fill their lives with well-rounded extra-curriculars and meaningful family discussions.

"You didn't want him to be disappointed with you or upset with you," continued Robinson, "because we held him in such high-esteem."

Robinson and his sister are close. They talk several times a week, and he said his dad had a soft spot for "Meesh," as he used to call her.

"My sister had to be in her 30s when my dad died," said Robinson. He ruminated on Michelle's closeness to her father: "My mom and I used to crack up. She used to sit in his lap up until the week before he died."

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NEXT >

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Shaping the Democratic Party's Platform (2008-07-08 09:23)

Barack Obama sent out the following message announcing an open platform for the Democratic Party.

There have been plenty of rumblings recently over Barack's supposed drift toward the "center." This perception may have been exacerbated by the fact that the Illinois senator is campaigning a lot in red states with a message obviously crafted for those states.

The new Democratic Party platform will be formulated after receiving input from Platform Meetings that will take place across the country for two weeks in July.

This will allow Obama supporters to sound off about which direction they think the party and their candidate should take.

Paul-

✖ Every four years, the Democratic Party assembles a platform that outlines the party's position on a number of issues. Traditionally, the drafting of the platform is not open to ordinary people. This year, that's going to change.

For two weeks in July, people all across America will hold Platform Meetings in their own communities to discuss the issues and share their input. The outcome of these meetings will be reviewed by the Drafting Committee as it creates the final Platform.

No political experience is required. Your thoughts and experiences are all that matter, and they will shape a platform that – like this campaign – is owned by the people.

...This year, ordinary people like you will gather in their homes, community centers, places of worship, and even coffee shops to discuss the issues that matter to them and help decide what should be at the heart of the Democratic platform for change.

The input we get from these meetings will help shape the platform at the Democratic Convention in August.

Platform Meetings are a great way to connect with fellow supporters and help write the next chapter in the history of the Democratic Party.

We'll make sure you have all the resources and support you need to succeed. All you need to provide are your ideas for America and your hunger for change.

I hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to make your voice heard in the political process.

Thank you for all that you do,

Barack

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama addresses League of United Latin American Citizens (2008-07-08 18:43)

Barack Obama addresses League Of United Latin American Citizens (2008-07-08 19:11)

Sen. Barack Obama spoke before the League Of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Conference today in Washington DC.

[EMBED] Latinos will be one of the more important voting blocs to win over in the presidential election.

...I'm told that today's theme is "diversity in government." So I've been thinking about why that's important and about what it means to have a government that represents all Americans. It's not just about making sure that men and women of every race, religion, and background are represented at every level of government – though that's a critical part of it. It's not just about sending a message to our children that everyone can lead and everyone can serve – although that too is important. It's about making sure that we have a government that knows that a problem facing any American is a problem facing all Americans.

It's about making sure our government knows that when there's a Hispanic girl stuck in a crumbling school who graduates without learning to read or doesn't graduate at all, that isn't just a Hispanic-American problem, that's an American problem.

When Hispanics lose their jobs faster than almost anybody else, or work jobs that pay less, and come with fewer benefits than almost anybody else, that isn't a Hispanic-American problem, that's an American problem.

When 12 million people live in hiding in this country and hundreds of thousands of people cross our borders illegally each year; when companies hire undocumented workers instead of legal citizens to avoid paying overtime or to avoid a union; and a nursing mother is torn away from her baby by an immigration raid, that is a problem that all of us – black, white, and brown – must solve as one nation.

A government that works for all Americans – that's the kind of government I'm talking about. And that's the kind of government I've been fighting to build throughout my over 20 years in public service.

[EMBED]

Read the entire speech as prepared for delivery.

You can read the Latino Blueprint for Change and join Latinos for Obama here.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Video: Obama Family Interview (2008-07-08 19:54)

Access Hollywood has a great interview by Maria Menounos of the whole Obama family. It's the first time I've heard the kids Malia and Sasha sound off in a televised interview.

[EMBED]

Part II of the interview.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2012-12-22 07:08:48)

Greetings! This is my first comment here so I just wanted to give a quick shout out and tell you I genuinely enjoy reading your articles. Can you recommend any other blogs/websites/forums that deal with the same subjects? Thanks a lot!
*my web page: **marketing***

Video: Obama on Economy (2008-07-09 08:18)

Barack Obama talks about the economy, economic security and bankruptcy in Powder Springs, Georgia.

[EMBED]

A new television ad airing in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan, "New Energy" clarifies Obama's energy policy and responds to false attacks by John McCain and the Republican party.

[EMBED]

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack, Hillary and Caroline Kennedy Live from NY (2008-07-09 17:57)

Watch Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Caroline Clinton live from New York.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Is Barack Obama 'talking down' to folk (2008-07-10 10:13)

The newest controversy created by the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "private" comments bring up the question as to whether there is a perception that Barack Obama is, as Jackson puts it, 'talking down' to people.

Jackson mentions specifically black people, but there was also the case of the comments about "bitter" rural folk (read white people) clinging to God and guns. These two cases are not exactly similar as Jackson was talking about Obama's chastening of absent black fathers, were the senator was speaking directly to his own community, while the "bitter" comments were made while talking about rural people to an urban crowd, apparently referring to those in and around the Appalachias.

Either way, such comments run the danger of making Obama appear condescending, patronizing and out-of-touch. Not that these problems do not exist, but in both cases they exist in communities that are down-trodden in general. Many would argue that there are external causes for these problems.

I remember one college course I had with the late Sacramento mayor Joe Serna. He talked about how Mexicans coming to the United States from Mexico and moving into wrecked neighborhoods changed socially. Coming from the family-oriented culture of Mexico, the new immigrants with each passing generation in these tough neighborhoods began to adopt a family structure similar to those of the black "hood" i.e. single parent families with mostly the fathers being absent and non-supportive.

Not that Obama is wrong about how these communities need to take ultimate responsibility for their own destinies. Part of that responsibility includes making their government accountable.

The power of words, especially coming from a potential national leader, though, must not be underestimated.

LIVE: Barack in Fairfax, Virginia (2008-07-10 10:50)

Barack Obama continues his tour of conservative battleground states with a stop in Fairfax, Virginia. Here is a live video feed of his talk there on economic security.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Targeted States: Missouri (2008-07-10 15:03)

John McCain is leading in most polls out of Missouri, but just yesterday the Obama campaign tripled their staff presence in the Show Me State.

Obama for America announced it has 150 paid staffers in the state to direct the Illinois senator's army of volunteers. The total exceeds the combined peak numbers of both John Kerry who had as many as 80 Missouri staffers and George W. Bush who had up to 50 in the last presidential election.

"We have started really ramping up on the staffing, we're going to start to open offices across the state and we're really excited to talk with the people here," Debbie Mesloh with Obama For America said.

Missouri: McCain vs. Obama (RealClearPolitics)

Polling Data

PollDateSampleMcCain (R)Obama (D)Spread

RCP Average 06/20 - 07/07 - 49.0 44.0 McCain +5.0 Rasmussen 07/07 - 07/07 500 LV 50 45 McCain +5.0
PPP (D) 07/02 - 07/05 723 LV 47 44 McCain +3.0 SurveyUSA 06/20 - 06/22 543 LV 50 43 McCain +7.0
Rasmussen 06/03 - 06/03 500 LV 42 43 Obama +1.0 SurveyUSA 05/16 - 05/18 1523 LV 48 45 McCain +3.0
Rasmussen 05/06 - 05/06 500 LV 47 41 McCain +6.0 SurveyUSA 04/11 - 04/13 542 RV 50 42 McCain +8.0
Rasmussen 03/24 - 03/24 500 LV 53 38 McCain +15.0 SurveyUSA 03/14 - 03/16 536 RV 53 39 McCain
+14.0 SurveyUSA 02/26 - 02/28 632 RV 48 42 McCain +6.0 Rasmussen 02/11 - 02/11 500 LV 42 40 McCain
+2.0 SurveyUSA 01/11 - 01/13 562 RV 51 40 McCain +11.0 SurveyUSA 12/13 - 12/15 547 RV 44 47 Obama
+3.0

George W. Bush beat both Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004 in Missouri. Indeed, a Democrat hasn't won Missouri since 1964.

Missouri has a Republican governor, Matt Blunt. In both 2000 and 2004, the governor was a Democrat. There is a Republican senator and a Democratic one, the latter being early Obama supporter Claire McCaskill.

McCaskill has been a very active campaigner for Obama and often appears on national news coverage representing the campaign.

The Missouri state legislature, both the assembly and the senate, are dominated by Republicans.

Despite the strong Republican presence in the state, there was one very good sign for Obama that occurred during the primary. A total of 824,453 voters cast ballots in the Democratic primary, compared to 584,618 for the Republicans. In comparison, in 2000, 44 % more Republicans voted in the primary than Democrats. Also, in the most recent statewide election, McCaskill was able to unseat an incumbent Republican possibly indicating weakening support for the party.

Efforts by the Obama campaign and the DNC to register and activate Democrats in the state are reported to be bearing fruit. So much so, that incumbent Republican Gov. Blunt has decided not to run for reelection.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Live Chat on Obama's Economic Plan for Women (2008-07-11 11:14)

The Obama for America blog is hosting a live chat on women's economic security with Campaign Deputy National Policy Director Danielle Gray, Domestic Policy Director Neera Tanden, and Economic Policy Advisor Brian Deese for approximately 45 minutes starting at 11:00 am PST.

Here are some details on Obama's plan for working women.

Obama's Plan for Economic Security for America's Working Women

Tax cut for working women. Barack Obama will provide 71 million working women with a tax cut of up to \$500–or \$1000 per family–to help offset the impact of stagnant wages and skyrocketing costs.

Balancing work and family. Obama will help address the challenge of balancing work and family by guaranteeing seven days of paid sick leave to the 22 million working women who currently have none. Obama will also expand child care tax credits, double funding for afterschool programs to serve 1 million more children, and will create a summer learning program to serve an additional 1 million young people. **Health care for every American.** As President, Obama will reduce health care costs by \$2,500 for a typical family, while providing affordable health care for every American.

A secure retirement. Obama will strengthen retirement security for working women, who currently enter retirement with less than half the retirement savings of men. Obama's plan will automatically enroll workers in retirement accounts (with the option to opt-out) and make these accounts portable to help working parents save while balancing their family obligations.

Equal Pay. Obama will fight for paycheck equity and to close the pay gap that leaves women earning only 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. The pay gap is even more pronounced for minority working women—with Hispanic women earning only 53 cents and African American women only 62 cents for every dollar of male earnings.

Affordable college. Obama will put the cost of college in reach for by providing a \$4,000 refundable tax credit available at the time of enrollment in exchange for community service.

Raise the minimum wage. Obama will help low-wage working women move into the middle class by increasing the minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2011, and indexing it to inflation—and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Support Women-Owned Small Businesses. Obama will help women-owned small businesses innovate, grow and create jobs by cutting their capital gains tax rate to zero, and implementing the Women Owned Business contracting program that has been abandoned by the Bush Administration.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Why negative attacks against Obama are risky (2008-07-12 13:58)

Among many pundits and street level supporters alike, there are those who believe that conservatives will subject Barack Obama to a massive assault of negative ads similar to the "swiftboating" campaign used against John Kerry. However, there are some indications out there that Obama's supporters may not be that certain about the effectiveness of swiftboat attacks against the Illinois senator. Already, there have been at least several widespread anti-Obama 'whisper campaigns' over the internet, and yet Obama is still leading in the most swing states according to the polls.

In 2004, we did not have the social networking sites and YouTube as we do today. These networks allow politicians to test what will or will not work against a candidate, and what might be worth spending TV ad money on. In fact, these internet networks alone can often sink a candidate as we saw during the congressional races of 2006.

Another thing about Obama is that he does not let negative attacks shape his own campaign. Kerry, while often refusing to respond directly to the swiftboaters, began appearing frequently with his old swift boat crew and with supporting military flag officers in apparent reaction to the attacks. These supporters acted as Kerry's surrogates and soon the bickering between them and the swiftboaters began to dominate news cycles.

Obama's ability to keep the focus on change in Washington makes it difficult for his opponents to come up with a workable negative attack strategy.

Swiftboating attacks will tend to erode Obama's support among conservative members of his own party. Therefore, it's important that he keeps his progressive base of supporters strongly behind him.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-07-12 15:14:00)

The biggest thing that Obama will have to do is try to convince the middle of the roaders or moderates that he is the most qualified candidate, which he isn't. Not that I like McCain any better but no one can exactly tell us what Sen. Obama has done in his very short Senatorial career. He hasn't even finished a single term in the Senate yet.

I can't even believe that he is the most qualified Democrat much less candidate for POTUS.

Slowly but surely people will eventually see him as nothing more than an empty suit.

Anonymous (2008-07-15 06:32:00)

How can Obama run as President when one of the qualifications is that the person's parents must be American Citizens.

what did he mark down as race on his form for filing for

president of the United States, or could he be charged with falsifying a Federal Leagl Form

Barack Obama to speak at National Council of La Raza (2008-07-13 09:21)

Barack Obama will speak at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) today as it celebrates 40 years of activism in the Latino Community.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other Latino leaders have been campaigning hard for Obama within the Latino community.

The Latino vote is critical in a number of swing states including New Mexico, Nevada and Florida.

For more info, read Barack's Latino Blueprint For Change.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Video: Barack Obama at La Raza Conference (2008-07-13 15:57)

Here is the video of Sen. Barack Obama today addressing the National Conference of La Raza in San Diego, California. Barack talks about his work as a community organizer in the south area of Chicago, which includes large Latino neighborhoods. He says that change comes not from the top down but from the bottom up.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

American Federation of Teachers endorses Barack Obama (2008-07-14 07:40)

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) endorsed Sen. Barack Obama yesterday.

The AFT represents more than 1.4 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators.

Here is the union's press release:

American Federation of Teachers Endorses Sen. Barack Obama
Illinois Senator Welcomes Endorsement, Addresses AFT Convention

CHICAGO – The 3,000-plus delegates to the American Federation of Teachers convention today voted overwhelmingly to endorse the presidential candidacy of Sen. Barack Obama, setting in motion the union's powerful and proven political program on his behalf. Immediately following the endorsement, Obama thanked the delegates live via satellite, saying he was "honored" by the endorsement.

"Sen. Obama believes, as we do, that our leaders have a responsibility to build the economy, not on the backs of poor and middle-class Americans, but for the benefit and well-being of all. His plans—to replace

NCLB with education law that truly helps schools, instead of hurts them; to ensure all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare; and to bring home American troops as soon as possible—will help usher in a new era of progress and opportunity,” said AFT President Edward J. McElroy.

With this endorsement, the AFT launches an all-out effort to inform its more than 1.4 million members about where the candidates stand on the issues, and to mobilize them to help elect Obama in November. The AFT turned out a record number of members to vote in the presidential primaries, and plans to build on that effort during the general election campaign.

Obama told the delegates he needed the union’s help to get to the White House, adding:

”From your earliest days in Chicago, you’ve stood up for change. When minorities weren’t allowed full union membership; when parents fought to integrate our schools; when it was time to take the march for civil rights to Washington—you stood up. And if you stand up with me in these next four months ... then I promise you this: We will win this election; we will change education in this country; and we will bring about a better future for our children and for this country we love.”

”AFT members will work tirelessly to elect Sen. Obama as the next president of the United States,” McElroy said, “for the sake of our country, the institutions in which we work, and the children and citizens we serve.”

And here is Sen. Obama’s response to the endorsement:

Remarks to the 80th Convention of the American Federation of Teachers

(As prepared for delivery)

Senator Barack Obama

July 13, 2008

Hello, everybody. I’m sorry I can’t join you all in person today, but thank you for letting me say a few words. First and foremost, I am honored to have your endorsement, and I appreciate the commitment you’re making to help us win in November.

I want to thank your president, Ed McElroy, your Secretary-Treasurer, Nat LaCour, and your Executive Vice President, Toni Cortese. Ed and Nat, congratulations on your retirements. We are all grateful for your steady leadership and tireless efforts to guarantee our students their fundamental right to a quality education. And I look forward to working with your new officers.

And I want to say hello to my friends from Illinois - Ed Geppert, the President of the Illinois Federation of Teachers; Marilyn Stewart, the president of the Chicago Teachers Union; and AFT Vice President Jim Dougherty, and all my allies with whom I’ve worked so closely.

Over the course of this campaign, I’ve had the opportunity to visit schools and talk to teachers and students; paraprofessionals and support staff; college faculty and employees; public employees, nurses and health care workers all across this country. But so much of what informs my visits comes from an experience I had a few years ago at Dodge Elementary School in Chicago, not far from where you’re assembled today.

I asked a young teacher there what she saw as the biggest challenge facing her students. She gave me an answer I had never heard before. She talked about what she called “These Kids Syndrome” - the tendency to explain away the shortcomings and failures of our education system by saying “these kids can’t learn” or “these kids don’t want to learn” or “these kids are just too far behind.” And after a while, “these kids” become somebody else’s problem.

And she looked at me and said, “When I hear that term, it drives me crazy. They’re not ‘these kids.’ They’re our kids. All of them.”

She’s absolutely right. These children are our children. Their future is our future. And it’s time we understood that their education is our responsibility.

I am running for President to guarantee that all of our children have the best possible chance in life. And I am tired of hearing you blamed for our problems. I want to lead a new era of mutual responsibility in education, where we all come together: parents and educators, the AFT and leaders in Washington, citizens all across America; united for the sake of our children's success.

Bringing about that future begins with fixing the broken promises of No Child Left Behind. Now, I believe that the goals of this law - educating every child with an excellent teacher, closing the achievement gap, ensuring more accountability and higher standards - were right. But promising all this while leaving the resources behind is wrong. Labeling a school and its students as failures one day and then abandoning them the next is wrong.

We must fix the failures of No Child Left Behind by providing the funding that was promised, giving states the resources they need, and finally meeting our commitment to special education. But that alone is not an education policy. It's just a starting point.

Now, John McCain is an honorable man and I respect his service to our country, but he won't even get us to that starting point. For someone who's been in Washington nearly 30 years, he's got a pretty slim record on education, and when he has taken a stand, it's been the wrong one.

He voted against increased funding for No Child Left Behind to preserve billions in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans - tax breaks he wants to extend without saying how he'd pay for them. He voted against increasing funds for Head Start, and Pell Grants, and the hiring of 100,000 new teachers again and again and again.

In fact, his only proposal seems to be recycling tired rhetoric about vouchers and school choice. Now, I've been a proponent of public school choice throughout my career. I applaud AFT for your leadership in representing charter school teachers and support staff all across this country, and for even operating your own charters in New York. Because we know well-designed public charter schools have a lot to offer, and I've actually helped pass legislation to expand them. But what I do oppose is using public money for private school vouchers. We need to focus on fixing and improving our public schools; not throwing our hands up and walking away from them.

Real change is finally giving our kids everything they need to have a fighting chance in today's world. That begins with recognizing that the single most important factor in determining a child's achievement is not the color of their skin or where they come from; it's not who their parents are or how much money they have. It's who their teacher is. It's the paraprofessionals and support staff and all of you in this room. It's those who spend their own money on books and supplies, come early and stay late comparing lesson plans, who devote their lives to our next generation and serve as role models for the children who need one most because you believe that's what makes the extra difference. And it does. After all, I have two daughters. I know what their teachers mean to them.

So it's time to start treating our teachers properly. That means residency programs that supply exceptional recruits to high-need schools. That means mentoring programs that pair experienced, successful teachers with new ones. That means service scholarships that say if you commit your life to teaching, America will commit to paying for your college education.

And when our educators succeed, I won't just talk about how great they are; I will reward them for it. Under my plan, districts will be able to give teachers who mentor, or teach in underserved areas, or take on added responsibilities, or learn new skills to serve students better, or consistently excel in the classroom, the salary increase they deserve. And whether it's the plans AFT helped create in Cincinnati or Chicago, you've shown that it is possible to find new ways to increase teacher pay that are developed with teachers, not imposed on them.

And together, we will begin changing the odds for our at-risk children by providing quality, affordable early childhood education for all our children. To address the achievement gap, we'll expand afterschool and summer learning opportunities. To address the dropout crisis that condemns so many futures, we'll intervene much earlier in a child's education - because the forces that lead a high school student to drop out start well before the ninth grade.

But there is no program and no policy that can substitute for a parent who is involved in their child's ed-

ucation from day one, who makes sure that child is in school on time, helps them with their homework, and attends those parent-teacher conferences; who is willing to turn off the TV once in awhile, put away the video games, and read to their child. Responsibility for our children's education starts at home. We have to set high standards for them, and spend time with them, and love them. We have to hold ourselves accountable.

This is the commitment we must make to our kids. This is the chance they must have. We all know there are too many young men and women in America right now who are slipping away from us as we speak - students who've lost all hope that they can make something of their lives. You know these kids. And I know these kids. I began my career over two decades ago in communities on Chicago's South Side. And I worked with parents and teachers and local leaders to fight for their future. We set up after school programs and protested outside government offices so that we could get those who had dropped out into alternative schools. And in time, we changed the odds for our children.

But while I know hopelessness, I also know hope. In May, I visited a high school in Colorado where just three years ago, only half of the seniors were accepted to college. But thanks to the hard work of caring parents, innovative educators, and some very committed students, all forty-four seniors of this year's class were accepted to more than seventy colleges and universities across the country. And the example they set trickles down. While there, I met an eighth grader named Theo Rodriguez, who now sets his sights a little higher - he wants to go to Oxford and study criminology.

That's what hope is. That's the promise of education in America - that no matter what we look like or where we come from or who our parents are, each of us should have the opportunity to fulfill our God-given potential. Each of us should have the chance to achieve the American Dream.

That's why I'm running for President, AFT. To make sure all our kids have that chance. But I need your help to get there. From your earliest days in Chicago, you've stood up for change - when minorities weren't allowed full union membership; when parents fought to integrate our schools; when it was time to take the march for civil rights to Washington, you stood up.

And if you stand up with me these next four months; if you march with me and knock on doors and make phone calls and register voters, and talk to your friends and co-workers and neighbors; then I promise you this: we will win this election; we will change education in this country; and we will bring about a better future for our children and for this country we love. Thank you.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jim Johnson (2008-07-14 07:51:00)

The Bend Oregon real estate market needs help. I'm wondering what the candidates can do for the economy. We are also in a fuel crisis and should be pumping American oil.

run a car on water (2008-07-14 12:46:00)

It is going to be an interesting election. The candidate that comes up with the most believable cure to our fuel situation and addresses the housing market will get elected.

(2008-07-14 19:22)

Sen. Barack Obama had an opinion article published in the New York Times today outlining his plans to withdraw troops from Iraq upon taking office.

The Illinois senator came under fire when he was perceived as possibly backing on his Iraq War stance by saying he

might 'refine' his position upon visiting the country and talking with military commanders there. Barack makes it clear in the op-ed that he has not changed his position. He has not come up with firm plans yet on the specifics of a "residual force" to remain in Iraq after the main troop pullout.

My Plan for Iraq

By BARACK OBAMA

Published: July 14, 2008

CHICAGO — The call by Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki for a timetable for the removal of American troops from Iraq presents an enormous opportunity. We should seize this moment to begin the phased redeployment of combat troops that I have long advocated, and that is needed for long-term success in Iraq and the security interests of the United States.

[Skip to next paragraph](#)

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Paul Hoppe

The differences on Iraq in this campaign are deep. Unlike Senator John McCain, I opposed the war in Iraq before it began, and would end it as president. I believed it was a grave mistake to allow ourselves to be distracted from the fight against Al Qaeda and the Taliban by invading a country that posed no imminent threat and had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks. Since then, more than 4,000 Americans have died and we have spent nearly \$1 trillion. Our military is overstretched. Nearly every threat we face — from Afghanistan to Al Qaeda to Iran — has grown.

In the 18 months since President Bush announced the surge, our troops have performed heroically in bringing down the level of violence. New tactics have protected the Iraqi population, and the Sunni tribes have rejected Al Qaeda — greatly weakening its effectiveness.

But the same factors that led me to oppose the surge still hold true. The strain on our military has grown, the situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated and we've spent nearly \$200 billion more in Iraq than we had budgeted. Iraq's leaders have failed to invest tens of billions of dollars in oil revenues in rebuilding their own country, and they have not reached the political accommodation that was the stated purpose of the surge.

The good news is that Iraq's leaders want to take responsibility for their country by negotiating a timetable for the removal of American troops. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. James Dubik, the American officer in charge of training Iraq's security forces, estimates that the Iraqi Army and police will be ready to assume responsibility for security in 2009.

Only by redeploying our troops can we press the Iraqis to reach comprehensive political accommodation and achieve a successful transition to Iraqis' taking responsibility for the security and stability of their country. Instead of seizing the moment and encouraging Iraqis to step up, the Bush administration and Senator McCain are refusing to embrace this transition — despite their previous commitments to respect the will of Iraq's sovereign government. They call any timetable for the removal of American troops "surrender," even though we would be turning Iraq over to a sovereign Iraqi government.

But this is not a strategy for success — it is a strategy for staying that runs contrary to the will of the Iraqi people, the American people and the security interests of the United States. That is why, on my first day in office, I would give the military a new mission: ending this war.

As I've said many times, we must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in. We can safely redeploy our combat brigades at a pace that would remove them in 16 months. That would be the summer of 2010 — two years from now, and more than seven years after the war began. After this redeployment, a residual force in Iraq would perform limited missions: going after any remnants of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, protecting American service members and, so long as the Iraqis make political progress, training Iraqi security forces. That would not be a precipitous withdrawal.

In carrying out this strategy, we would inevitably need to make tactical adjustments. As I have often said, I would consult with commanders on the ground and the Iraqi government to ensure that our troops were redeployed safely, and our interests protected. We would move them from secure areas first and volatile areas later. We would pursue a diplomatic offensive with every nation in the region on behalf of Iraq's stability, and commit \$2 billion to a new international effort to support Iraq's refugees.

Ending the war is essential to meeting our broader strategic goals, starting in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the Taliban is resurgent and Al Qaeda has a safe haven. Iraq is not the central front in the war on terrorism, and it never has been. As Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently pointed out, we won't have sufficient resources to finish the job in Afghanistan until we reduce our commitment to Iraq.

As president, I would pursue a new strategy, and begin by providing at least two additional combat brigades to support our effort in Afghanistan. We need more troops, more helicopters, better intelligence-gathering and more nonmilitary assistance to accomplish the mission there. I would not hold our military, our resources and our foreign policy hostage to a misguided desire to maintain permanent bases in Iraq.

In this campaign, there are honest differences over Iraq, and we should discuss them with the thoroughness they deserve. Unlike Senator McCain, I would make it absolutely clear that we seek no presence in Iraq similar to our permanent bases in South Korea, and would redeploy our troops out of Iraq and focus on the broader security challenges that we face. But for far too long, those responsible for the greatest strategic blunder in the recent history of American foreign policy have ignored useful debate in favor of making false charges about flip-flops and surrender.

It's not going to work this time. It's time to end this war.

Barack Obama, a United States senator from Illinois, is the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.



[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Christine (2008-07-15 07:42:00)

just wanted to draw your attention to a website- www.obamatracker.com

This site posts dozens of stories regarding Barack Obama daily, from all different news organizations. We currently have over 3,000 stories, and we're only adding more as they come! It's a great resource for finding out anything about Obama.

Anonymous (2008-07-15 12:21:00)

I truly believe Sen. Obama means well, but there are several flaws in his approach to Iraq and the overall world situation that exists.

The value of having a democratic country with influence in the Mid East is staggering to the future of the region. We must stay focused on the stability and the future of the conflict; to ensure it comes to the desired close. A stable democracy in the region. No doubt we have spent lives and resources to get this far. It accomplishes nothing to play the blame game. We as a country are in this situation and we must remain focused to bring it to an end that is worth our sacrifices.

We all know we need to increase our level of commitment in Afghanistan. The end of the Taliban and Al Qaeda is imperative. We should soberly assess our military strengths and make the necessary adjustments to achieve these goals. Including an increase of troops not only in that country but quite possibly an increase in our overall military posture as a country. Anything less will prove harmful if not fatal to our country's vitality.

Obama Addresses National Security Issues in DC (2008-07-15 10:21)

Ahead of a major address by Sen. Barack Obama on his policy on Iraq, Afghanistan and other national security issues, the campaign released a new TV ad highlighting the senator's work on stopping the smuggling of nuclear weapons. The ad titled "America's Leadership" will air in Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Virginia.

The selection of states for this ad might give some indication of which states the Obama campaign is targeting as battleground areas.

[EMBED]

Read the text of Barack's address "A Strategy for A New World" as prepared for delivery in Washington DC today.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Videos: NAACP and Security Address (2008-07-15 17:31)

Sen. Barack Obama addresses the NAACP Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio during Youth Night.

If elected, Obama will become the first African American president on the 100th anniversary of the NAACP.

[EMBED]

Here's the video of Barack's speech on the Iraq War and national security in Washington DC today. He said:

I am running for President of the United States to lead this country in a new direction – to seize this moment's promise. Instead of being distracted from the most pressing threats that we face, I want to overcome them. Instead of pushing the entire burden of our foreign policy on to the brave men and women of our military, I want to use all elements of American power to keep us safe, and prosperous, and free. Instead of alienating ourselves from the world, I want America – once again – to lead.

As President, I will pursue a tough, smart and principled national security strategy – one that recognizes

that we have interests not just in Baghdad, but in Kandahar and Karachi, in Tokyo and London, in Beijing and Berlin. I will focus this strategy on five goals essential to making America safer: ending the war in Iraq responsibly; finishing the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban; securing all nuclear weapons and materials from terrorists and rogue states; achieving true energy security; and rebuilding our alliances to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Clearly Iraq is the one issue that stand out so clearly as a difference between Barack Obama and John McCain.

[EMBED]

And's here a Flickr slideshow from the Washington talk:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-07-25 10:04:00)


It reminds me of Berlin in 1939 - except it was Hitler with the 'golden tongue' who captured the German people.

Backstage with Barack (2008-07-16 07:16)

Obama for America sent out this email today announcing that ten donors to the campaign will be selected for a backstage pass with Barack during the Democratic National Convention.

Each person selected will be allowed to bring one guest and will be provided transportation and two nights accommodation. They will meet privately with Barack prior to his historic acceptance speech before a crowd of 75,000 people. In order to qualify, you must donate in any amount before July 31.

 Friend -

 I'm out here in Denver, Colorado visiting the site of the Democratic National Convention, and there is excitement in the mountain air.

Folks are working hard on Barack's plan for a truly open convention. It will be a historic event, and you can be a part of it.

If you make a donation in any amount before midnight on July 31st, you could be selected to travel to Denver for the last two days of the convention, including the final event - Barack's acceptance of the Democratic nomination for President before 75,000 people.

Ten supporters will be selected from all over the country, and each will be able to bring one guest. We'll provide airfare, accommodations, and two days of convention activities - including a private meeting with Barack before his historic speech.

Our team shot a short video of the stadium to give you a sense of the event. Watch the video and make a donation of \$25 today, and you could go Backstage with Barack:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/backstage>

Supporters like you are the reason this campaign has been possible. We are thrilled that some of you will be able to celebrate what you accomplished with us in Denver.

But we have a long way to go, and Barack can't do this without you.

Thanks,

Steve

Steve Hildebrand

Deputy Campaign Manager



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



LIVE: Barack talks security in West Lafayette (2008-07-16 08:48)

Sen. Barack Obama is getting ready for a live talk on nuclear proliferation, bioterrorism, cyber security and emerging national security threats.

You can watch the live webcast from West Lafayette, Indiana in the viewer below.

Recently, Obama has discussed national security issues quite a bit possibly in preparation for his overseas trip to Europe and the Middle East.

The Illinois senator will be joined in the video by Senators Evan Bayh and Sam Nunn, Dr. Graham Allison, an expert on nuclear non-proliferation, and a Professor and former Dean of the Kennedy School of Government, two renowned experts on bio security—Dr. Tara O’Toole, Center for Bio Security at the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. David Relman, Stanford University Medical School—and two cyber security experts—Paul Kurtz, a former senior member on the National Security Council and Homeland Security Council, and Alan Wade, former Chief Information Officer for the CIA.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Organizing Fellows (2008-07-16 19:17)

[EMBED]

Obama Organizing Fellow Andy rides his bike to register new voters in Ohio. During the primary, Andy skipped his college graduation commencement ceremonies to help out the campaign in Indiana.

[EMBED]

Mr. Frank Watson, a 92-year-old Republican supporter of Barack and Gregory, an Organizing Fellow, talk about supporting the campaign in Denver, Colorado.

One way everybody can get involved is by taking part in shaping the Democratic Party Platform by participating in one of the 1,200 platform meetings in all 50 states from July 19 to July 27.

You still have time to host or attend a Platform Meeting in your community to help set the agenda for the Democratic Party and its presumptive presidential nominee, Barack Obama.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Obama doubles McCain fundraising in June (2008-07-17 07:02)

Obama Campaign Manager David Plouffe sent out this email today.

Barack Obama raised a very healthy \$52 million in June easily surpassing John McCain on brought in \$22 million. On the barackobama.com blog, it says that there is a mistake in the email and that the figure of \$72 million cash on hand is for Obama for America only, and not the combined total with the DNC.

The DNC and Obama for America have a combined total of \$92.3 cash on hand, so still behind the figure for the RNC and the McCain campaign, which is about \$95 million. The DNC has been spending money at a much higher rate than the RNC.

Obviously though, if fundraising in the months to come is anything comparable to what happened in June, the Democrats will easily overtake the Republicans in cash.

Paul –

X We have some big news we want to share with you.

Because of your generosity and commitment, we're reporting to the press today that this campaign is in a very strong financial position.

In the month of June, supporters like you helped raise \$52 million.

But more impressive than the number is how you did it. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary people contributed to building our campaign for change. Many were first-time donors, giving only what they could afford – and the average donation was just \$68.

You continue to prove what ordinary Americans committed to change can accomplish, despite the Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs funding so much of our opponents' campaign.

But we can't stop now.

It's going to take everything we've got to defeat John McCain and the Republican National Committee in November. And we can't do it without your continued support.

Can you make a donation of \$25 now to strengthen our movement for change?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/junenumbers>

I also wanted to share with you another promising piece of news.

The Obama campaign and the DNC ended June with a combined total of nearly \$72 million in the bank. It's a healthy number. But McCain and the RNC together still have a huge cash advantage, and we need your help to close the gap.

As I mentioned in my video message to you earlier in the week, we're facing a Republican machine with unprecedented resources at its disposal. The McCain campaign and the Republican National Committee finished June with nearly \$100 million in the bank.

Our campaign does not accept donations from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs, and neither does the Democratic National Committee. But John McCain and the RNC have no such standards. Along with the vast amounts of unregulated money being raised by shadowy outside groups, there's no telling how much they'll spend running attack ads.

We must work together and fight back against their efforts.

Please make a donation of \$25 now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/junenumbers>

I know this isn't the first time we've asked you for money, and it won't be the last.

We have developed a strategy – a very aggressive strategy – that will only work if our millions of

supporters continue to contribute their time and their money.

We are now on the air with TV ads in 18 states – including 14 that George W. Bush carried in the 2004 election. And in each one we're also building extensive grassroots field organizations.

It's all part of our strategy to spread Barack's positive message and compete in all 50 states.

That strategy will work, and it has to. The stakes are too high and the need for change too great. We are thrilled to be on this journey with you and thank you for all you have done so far. But victory is only possible with your continued help.

Please give \$25 now:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/junenumbers>

We can't do this without you.

Thanks,

David

David Plouffe

Campaign Manager

Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack endorses Al Gore's Plan (2008-07-17 14:32)

Barack Obama responded today to Al Gore's speech at Constitution Hall in Washington DC, where Gore called for a zero-carbon America by 2018.

For decades, Al Gore has challenged the skeptics in Washington on climate change and awakened the conscience of a nation to the urgency of this threat. I strongly agree with Vice President Gore that we cannot drill our way to energy independence, but must fast-track investments in renewable sources of energy like solar power, wind power and advanced biofuels, and those are the investments I will make as President. It's a strategy that will create millions of new jobs that pay well and cannot be outsourced, and one that will leave our children a world that is cleaner and safer.

Gore's vision is not far-fetched technically; politics is the main hurdle particularly the resistance that would be encountered from the oil and other polluting energy industries. It could take ten years, the time between now and 2018, just to get legislation passed that would begin such a process. Unless, of course, the equation changes in Washington with more like-minded legislators coming into office.

The former vice president mentioned that the price of silicon, used to make solar energy cells, is coming down fast and no one doubts that with increased demand that prices will plummet further. The same thing happened in the computer industry.

"To those who say the challenge is not politically viable: I suggest they go before the American people and try to defend the status quo. Then bear witness to the people's appetite for change," Gore said. "Some of our greatest accomplishments as a nation have resulted from commitments to reach a goal that fell well beyond the next election: the Marshall Plan, Social Security, the interstate highway system."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Voices from Fairfax, Virginia (2008-07-18 09:21)

In the following video, audience members give their thoughts on Sen. Barack Obama's talk on women's empowerment in Fairfax, Virginia.

[EMBED]

Where Barack Stands

"From the first moment a woman dared to speak that hope - dared to believe that the American Dream was meant for her too - ordinary women have taken on extraordinary odds to give their daughters the chance for something else; for a life more equal, more free, and filled with more opportunity than they ever had. In so many ways we have succeeded, but in so many areas we have much work left to do."

Barack Obama, Speech in Washington, DC, 11/10/05

For more info on where Barack stands, visit his page on women's issues.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New Campaign Office Opens in Denver (2008-07-18 15:08)

Here's video of an Obama campaign office opening in Denver, Colorado.

Colorado is one of the more important battleground states that Obama and McCain will be vying for.

[EMBED]

A poll today suggests that Barack Obama supporters are much more enthusiastic than those of John McCain. An Associated Press/Yahoo News poll shows that 38 % of Obama's supporters say the election is exciting compared with only 9 % of McCain's.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama tours Afghanistan war zone (2008-07-19 09:35)

Sen. Barack Obama visited Kuwait and Afghanistan as part of an official congressional delegation and kicking off his tour of foreign countries.

Obama hopes to visit Jalalabad airfield, if the weather permits, and he will meet with President Hamid Karzai during his stay in Afghanistan.

The Illinois senator is traveling with Sens. Chuck Hagel , a Nebraska Republican and Jack Reed , a Democrat from Rhode Island, both of whom are war veterans.

"This is a war that we have to win," he said. "I will send at least two additional combat brigades to Afghanistan, and use this commitment to seek greater contributions — with fewer restrictions — from NATO allies. I will focus on training Afghan security forces and supporting an Afghan judiciary, with more resources and incentives for American officers who perform these missions," Obama said in a speech earlier this week. He is also expected to visit Jordan, Israel , Germany, France and the United Kingdom, traveling on a jet chartered by his presidential campaign, before returning to the United States.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Susan Rice on Iraqi PM Maliki's Support for Obama Plan (2008-07-19 13:37)

From barackobama.com :

Statement from Obama Campaign's Dr. Susan Rice in Response to PM Maliki's Support for Senator Obama's Iraq Plan
by Sam Graham-Felsen

, Saturday, July 19, 2008 at 10:47 AM

Below is a statement from Obama Campaign Senior National Security Advisor, Dr. Susan Rice, in response to Prime Minister Maliki's support for Senator Obama's Iraq plan...

Senator Obama welcomes Prime Minister Maliki's support for a 16 month timeline for the redeployment of U.S combat brigades. This presents an important opportunity to transition to Iraqi responsibility, while restoring our military and increasing our commitment to finish the fight in Afghanistan.

Read the Der Spiegel article: Iraq Leader Maliki Supports Obama's Withdrawal Plans

In an interview with SPIEGEL, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Barack Obama "is right when he talks about 16 months." It is time, he said, for an official timetable.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki supports US presidential candidate Barack Obama's plan to withdraw US troops from Iraq within 16 months. When asked in an interview with SPIEGEL when he thinks US troops should leave Iraq, Maliki responded "as soon as possible, as far as we are concerned." He then continued: "US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months."

Maliki was careful to back away from outright support for Obama. "Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business," he said. But then, apparently referring to Republican candidate John McCain's more open-ended Iraq policy, Maliki

said: "Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems."

Iraq, Maliki went on to say, "would like to see the establishment of a long-term strategic treaty with the United States, which would govern the basic aspects of our economic and cultural relations." He also emphasized though that the security agreement between the two countries should only "remain in effect in the short term."

The comments by the Iraqi leader come as Obama embarks on a trip to both Afghanistan and Iraq as well as to Europe. Obama was in Afghanistan on Saturday to, as he said prior to his trip, "see what the situation on the ground is . and thank our troops for the heroic work that they've been doing." The exact itinerary of the candidate's trip has not been made public out of security concerns, but it is widely expected that he will arrive in Iraq on Sunday to meet with Maliki.

Maliki has long shown impatience with the open-ended presence of US troops in Iraq. In his conversation with SPIEGEL, he was once again candid about his frustration over the Bush administration's hesitancy about agreeing to a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops. But he did say he was optimistic that such a schedule would be drawn up before Bush leaves the White House next January – a confidence that appeared justified following Friday's joint announcement in Baghdad and Washington that Bush has now, for the first time, spoken of "a general time horizon" for moving US troops out of Iraq.

"So far the Americans have had trouble agreeing to a concrete timetable for withdrawal, because they feel it would appear tantamount to an admission of defeat," Maliki told SPIEGEL. "But that isn't the case at all. If we come to an agreement, it is not evidence of a defeat, but of a victory, of a severe blow we have inflicted on al-Qaida and the militias."

He also bemoaned the fact that Baghdad has little control over the US troops in Iraq. "It is a fundamental problem for us that it should not be possible, in my country, to prosecute offences or crimes committed by US soldiers against our population," Maliki said.

cgh/SPIEGEL



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Google-My-Brain (2008-07-20 13:37:00)

Say what you want but Obama has something that McCain doesn't. That is character - relaxed and very intelligible speeches unlike McCain. McCain overall sound too scripted and forced. Top of that, he sound childish.

20 field offices open in Virginia (2008-07-20 10:11)

One can tell a lot about the Obama campaign's focus on battleground states by observing the buildup of resources in each of these states.

In Virginia, the campaign has opened 20 new field offices, a clear sign of how important that state will be in the general election. There will be much work on voter registration and volunteer recruitment leading up to the official start of the campaign after the Democratic Convention in Denver.

Here is a Flickr slide-show of the office-opening events in Virginia.

[EMBED]

The ground campaign will work in concert with online efforts, and Barack Obama addressed the Netroots Nation gathering in Texas last week.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama meets with Afghan President Karzai (2008-07-20 16:09)



AFP/HO Photo: Afghan President Hamid Karzai (left) walks with US Democratic Presidential contender Barack Obama in Kabul. Obama met with Afghan Karzai, who has been criticised by the Illinois senator for not doing enough to rebuild his war-torn country.(AFP/HO/HO)

Sen. Barack Obama met today with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai in Kabul as he continues his overseas tour. In a joint statement, Obama together with Sens. Chuck Hagel and Jack Reed said: ""Our message to the Afghan government is this: We want a strong partnership based on 'more for more' — more resources from the United States and NATO , and more action from the Afghan government to improve the lives of the Afghan people. We need a sense of urgency and determination."

Fighting has escalated in Afghanistan as the Taliban and al-Qaeda continue to regroup in the country particularly near the Pakistani border. Some experts believe resources diverted toward the "surge" in Iraq have prevented the international force from adequately dealing with the threat in Afghanistan.

The Afghan government operates as under siege and in many ways it is with the countryside largely controlled by insurgents.

Attacks in eastern Afghanistan are up 40 percent from the same time last year.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



League of Conservation Voters to back Barack Obama (2008-07-21 08:19)

The League of Conservation Voters will endorse Sen. Barack Obama for president according to a statement released by the group today.

On its environmental issues scorecard, the group gave Obama a score of 67 compared to zero for John McCain.

"When you look specifically at the twin challenges of cutting global warming pollution and moving toward a clean energy future, on those issues Barack Obama has the most comprehensive plan we have ever seen for a presidential nominee," said league president Gene Karpinski.

Two other major environmental groups, Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, endorsed Obama earlier this year.

Read more about Barack Obama's plan for the environment and energy.

[EMBED]

Obama volunteers in Florida.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Iraqi Leaders back Obama Plan w/o timetables (2008-07-21 14:38)

Sen. Barack Obama got a lift again today when Iraqi leaders apparently endorsed his plan for a U.S. troop withdrawal, but stopping short of supporting actual timetables.

Obama has promised to withdraw troops in about 16 months from taking office on a schedule of about two brigades a month.

The Iraqi response to Obama's overtures have angered both John McCain and the White House. "When you win wars, troops come home," said McCain, while visiting with former President George H. Bush.

The obvious retort to McCain is what he means by "win." Is the "surge" bringing us closer to 'winning?'

Obama's position has been that the Iraq War is draining resources needed to fight al-Qaeda in its home base of Afghanistan. Before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, al-Qaeda had no appreciable presence in Iraq. Since the war, the organization has been able to open a second major front of operations.

X



Mon Jul 21, 3:27 PM ET

AFP graphic showing official and stops during Obama's international tour. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is in Iraq for talks with local leaders and US commanders, after pledging to pull out US troops in 16 months if he takes over the White House next year. Some of Obama's flights are sponsored by the Obama for American campaign.

(AFP Graphic via Yahoo News)

X



Mon Jul 21, 2:23 PM ET

U.S. Commander in Iraq General David Petraeus (C) shares a laugh with visiting U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama (L) and U.S. senator Chuck Hagel during an aerial tour of Baghdad upon their arrival in Iraq July 21, 2008. REUTERS/SSG Lorie Jewell/US Army/Handout via Yahoo News.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Truth First (2008-07-21 22:50:00)

TF: During the past eight years we've seen the United States conduct a rather hostile foreign policy towards much of the world. America has attacked two Middle Eastern nations, resulting in many deaths, torture and the imprisonment of innocents. As President what can you do to correct these wrongs?

Senator Obama: As I have said from the beginning it was a mistake to go into Iraq for the reasons you cited. America has lost respect and does not have the credibility it had prior to the current administration. I intend to pull American forces out from Iraq as soon as we can. That's the first thing. What America has failed to do is seek justice. The current policy is more like a quest for vengeance, it is counter-productive. It has not made us safer.

We have to work with other nations instead of alienating them, we have common interests and we have to respect them and

we have to learn how to work with other nations. We cannot be sloppy and cut corners. The Bush administration has been undermining the virtues of America that will I plan to lead America by.

TF: So you will stop the imprisonments?

Senator Obama: The Supreme Court has ruled that what the current administration is doing is illegal. It is a shameful chapter in American history when people are picked up in battle and imprisoned without access to legal representation. This has not happened before in American history. I intend to restore respect for the law and for human rights. That should always be the end-goal in all U.S. policy especially with foreign policy. We have to show our best, not our worst characteristics.

TF: Senator Obama, the people of Iran are understandably concerned that their nation may come under attack. What can be done between now and January to prevent another unnecessary conflict?

Senator Obama: We must continue to remind the current administration that war is not the solution here. Iran has not attacked us and Iran is not going to attack us. They have every right to develop nuclear power if that is their wish and removing American forces from Iraq would relieve tensions considerably.

We must not be afraid of diplomacy, not just with Iran but with Syria, the Saudis, Jordan, the United Nations Security Council program members as well. Once it is clear that we're not planning to stay in Iraq for 10, 20 years, all these nations will have an interest in working out how we can best stabilize the situation.

Anonymous (2008-07-22 20:07:00)

"Obama has promised to withdraw troops in about 16 months from taking office..." It's not 16 months, it's 7 year 2 months since the war started that Obama has promised to withdraw troops from Iraq. Isn't over 7 years and tons of billions of dollars enough time and money for the Iraq's to figure out it's up to themselves if they want a free Iraq?

Clearly, Barack Obama Is a Muslim (2008-07-21 21:21)

About Barack Obama

Read the Article at [HuffingtonPost](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Wheels down in Amman, Jordan (Obama Road Blog) (2008-07-22 09:05)

From [barackobama.com](#) :

Road Blog: Wheels down in Amman, Jordan

by Obama Road Blog,

Monday, July 21, 2008 at 05:45 PM

Yesterday, Senator Obama's traveling staff and press corps took a ride on the recently refurbished and repainted campaign plane. This vessel has been home to the many of us who travel full time with the Senator and we welcomed it back with open arms.

The plane's first voyage was a particularly auspicious one. We flew to Jordan to meet up with Barack Obama, who is stopping in Amman following a fact-finding tour of Afghanistan and Iraq. He will hold a press conference tomorrow with Senator's Reed (D-RI) and Hagel (R-NE) to discuss his trip thus far. Barack will also be making stops in Israel, Germany, France, and England before returning home.

We caught up with Senior Foreign Policy Advisor, Richard Danzig, on the plane ride over to Jordan. He was equally excited about the trip: "This a great opportunity for Senator Obama to meet leaders who he will be working with, should Barack become President of the United States, as I hope and expect." Richard reminded us that these one-on-one meetings on the ground provide a more human element than is otherwise possible, and provide a deeper understanding of populations around the globe. Enjoy these pictures of this first voyage on the new plane.

Arun Chaudhary

July 21, 2008

Amman, Jordan

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Why the Math favors Obama (2008-07-22 13:48)

If you look at the voter turnout rates during the primary, then anything close to a repetition of that performance should give the Democrats a landslide victory in November.

Not only did Democrats turn out in much larger numbers overall, but in most of the key swing states they also easily outdid the Republicans.

Of course, the caveat here is that the people who turned out for Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and the other candidates also turn out for Barack Obama in the fall.

In most cases this is probably not a problem, however Hillary Clinton's campaign is a bit different. As the first viable woman presidential candidate, Hillary probably attracted a lot of people to vote in Democratic primaries who might not have done so otherwise.

Some of these women may have voted for Hillary in open primaries, or may have switched to Democrat just to vote for Sen. Clinton. So, these are not necessarily loyal Democrats.

The obvious way to attract this voting segment would be for Obama to select a woman running mate. While John McCain could counter by selecting a woman vice president of his own, I think overall this would play better for Democrats. There are a lot more "old-fashioned" conservatives in the Republican Party who might be less enthusiastic about a woman vice president.

Now, some might think a woman running with Obama is too much. The first black man and the first woman on the same ticket? However, for those inclined to vote for Obama, it would seem unlikely they would not vote for him just because he does not have a white male running mate. If you're open-minded about a black candidate, you're less likely to be close-minded about a woman candidate.

Now it may be that the woman on the ticket should be seen as a strong, earthy type to balance the airy Camelot atmosphere that surrounds Barack. Someone with plenty of foreign policy experience, and experience in general.

[EMBED]

Burma shave signs for Obama in Iowa.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Supporting Barack (2008-07-22 19:46)

MyBarackObama.com volunteers at the Netroot Nations event talk about their volunteer experience.

[EMBED]

Protesters in Warren, Michigan at an invitation-only "town hall meeting" in the GM Tech Center for Sen. John McCain.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Europeans fired up and ready for Obama (2008-07-23 06:49)

Obamamania is reportedly alive and well in Europe. It's a touchy subject among some Barack Obama supporters who believe that there is suspicion among certain segments of American voters over an American leader who is popular abroad.

Polls show that Obama is the overwhelming favorite among U.S. presidential candidates among Germans, French and British.

Obama's first stop will be at one of Berlin's most famous landmarks, the Victory Column, on Thursday. The German news magazine Der Spiegel splashed the headline "Germany meets the superstar" over a photo of Obama on its cover this week.

The Illinois senator's call for a "Marshall Plan" to alleviate world poverty has sentimental value in this part of the world that America helped rebuild after World War II.

Obama is also seen as a type of "anti-Bush," on a continent where the current U.S. president is far from popular. Josef Braml, an America expert with the German Council on Foreign Relations, says simply about Europe's passion for Obama: "He's not Bush."

But most believe that European admiration for Obama goes deeper and that his message of change and unity rings a bell with most people in the region.



Reuters

Berlin wonders about Obama visit

Report

Jul 09, 2008



Barack Obama's campaign unveiled a sparkling makeover for his chartered plane, seen here, ahead of the presumptive Democratic nominee's high-profile tour of the Middle East and Europe (AFP)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Road Trip: Scenes from the Middle East (2008-07-23 10:46)

Check out this Flickr slideshow from Jordan.

Jordan's King Abdullah personally drove Sen. Obama to the airport in his Mercedes with Barack riding shotgun.

[EMBED]

From Jordan, Barack and his entourage flew to Jerusalem where he visited the Yad Vashem Museum. Obama staffer Arun Chaudhary relayed the note left by the senator in the museum's guestbook:

I am grateful to Yad Vashem and all of those responsible for this remarkable institution.

At a time of great peril and promise, war and strife, we are blessed to have such a powerful reminder of man's potential for great evil, but also our capacity to rise from tragedy and remake our world. Let our children come here, and know this history, so they can add their voices to proclaim "never again". And may we remember those who perished, not only as victims but also as individuals who hoped and loved and dreamed like us, and who have become symbols of the human spirit.

Here's a video of Barack's remarks after the tour of the museum.

[EMBED]



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Forces Flip-Flops to Paralyze McCain (2008-07-23 16:11)

About Barack Obama

Read the Article at HuffingtonPost

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



LIVE: Barack Obama speaking in Berlin (2008-07-24 10:34)

As I write this, Barack Obama is talking live in Berlin. You may be able to catch it at this webpage:

<http://www.barackobama.com/live/>

CNN is also carrying the speech live.

Earlier in the morning, Obama met with Chancellor Angela Merkel at the German Chancellery. Here's a Flickr slide show from barackobama.com:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-07-25 10:06:00)

It reminds me of Berlin in 1939 when another man with a 'golden tongue' won over the German people. Beware of cult leaders.

(2008-07-24 10:43)

Let's Talk

by Michelle Obama

Hi everybody,

I'm excited to be posting on BlogHer. Not only because blogging is something I've actually been able to beat my daughters to; but because it gives me the opportunity to tell you a little bit about them, my husband, myself, and our experiences traveling all over this great country.

Over the course of this campaign, I've been hosting roundtable discussions with working women all across America. I'm there to talk about my husband, of course – but more importantly, I'm there to listen. We talk about what it's like to play multiple roles at once and what it's like to feel stretched thin between the demands of a career and family.

And of course, we talk about our children. How they're the first thing we think about when we wake up in the morning, and the last thing we think about when we go to bed at night. I know that no matter where I am – work, the campaign trail, wherever – my girls are always on my mind.

What I find is that our stories are similar. But what I also hear at each roundtable is that women are struggling. They are working hard and playing by the rules, doing the most important job of raising the next generation, but somehow can never get ahead. They're desperate for change.

I've heard from mothers struggling to make ends meet because their salaries aren't keeping up with the cost of groceries. But if they take a second job, they can't afford the additional cost of childcare. Or the moms who are nervous about taking time from their jobs to care for a sick child. Or the moms-to-be who are scared of getting fired if the boss finds out they're pregnant.

Then there are women who work hard every day doing the same jobs as men, but earning less. And the military families, who struggle to make ends meet with one paycheck where there used to be two. They welcome their loved ones home with full hearts but little support from their government for their service.

I hear similar stories everywhere I go. These struggles – the struggles of working women and families across America – aren't new to me or to any of us. And they're certainly not new to Barack.

He was raised by two strong, working women – his mother and his grandmother. Growing up, he saw his single mother put herself through school while raising him and his sister alone. She was determined to show them that in America, there are no barriers to success if you're willing to work for it. But he also saw her struggle to make ends meet, at times worrying about how she would pay the bills.

He saw his grandmother, the primary breadwinner for his family, work her way up at a bank. But he also saw how, once she got to a certain level, she hit a glass ceiling despite her hard work and abilities. He saw that she was passed over and underpaid, a problem that persists today for too many women.

And he sees me, his wife, trying to juggle jobs and raise kids; often feeling like when I'm with the kids, I'm shortchanging work, and when I'm at work or campaigning, I'm shortchanging the kids. I know you understand these struggles. Barack understands them too.

That's why he's worked to give families the tools they need to make a better life for their kids for over twenty years – from his years in Chicago working with a group of churches to help families devastated when local steel plants shut down; to the Illinois State Senate, where he worked to move families from welfare to work and expand early childhood education and child health care; to his fights in the U.S. Senate for equal pay and a fair economy.

As President, he'll continue these fights. And he'll build an economy that rewards work over wealth, ensures a world-class education, and creates quality, affordable health care for everyone who wants it.

He'll do all this because he's determined to change Washington so that instead of just talking about family values, we actually have policies that value families. Policies that actually make it easier for women to support, care for, and raise their families without having to choose between their kids and their careers.

I'll be honest – when Barack first told me he was thinking about running for President, I had mixed feelings. I worried about my girls and what a campaign might do to their lives. I wanted the best life possible for them, and a presidential campaign wasn't part of that equation.

But then I thought about it. And the world I want for them is a world where they're paid fairly and equally for their work; where they don't have to choose between kids and careers; where they can dream without limits without a glass ceiling standing in their way. And I realized that if that's the world I want for them, then I had to do my part to elect someone like my husband.

We all need to do our part to keep women's issues at the forefront of the national debate. That's why communities like BlogHer are so important. It's not just a forum or sounding board; it's an energetic space that lets women know they're not alone. It's our own national virtual roundtable. But we need to take these online conversations offline as well. I'll do my part, and so will Barack. But we need you all too.

Thanks for allowing me to post here. I plan to continue blogging – and listening.

200,000 view Obama Speech in Berlin (2008-07-24 12:18)

European media is estimating that a crowd of 200,000 showed up for Sen. Barack Obama's speech near the Victory Gate (Siegessäule). This makes it easily the largest public gathering ever for the Illinois senator. In comparison, his crowd at the Oregon rally and the expected attendance at his acceptance of the Democratic nomination in Denver are in the 70,000 ballpark.



Thu Jul 24, 1:31 PM ET

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama waves to the gathered crowd as he arrives to make a speech in front of the Victory Column (Siegessäule) in Berlin July 24, 2008. Obama on Thursday will give his only formal address of a week-long foreign tour. REUTERS/Tobias Schwarz

(GERMANY) US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2008 Here is the text of the speech as prepared for delivery:

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama (as prepared for delivery)
"A World that Stands as One"

July 24th, 2008

Berlin, Germany

Thank you to the citizens of Berlin and to the people of Germany. Let me thank Chancellor Merkel and Foreign Minister Steinmeier for welcoming me earlier today. Thank you Mayor Wowereit, the Berlin Senate, the police, and most of all thank you for this welcome.

I come to Berlin as so many of my countrymen have come before. Tonight, I speak to you not as a candidate for President, but as a citizen – a proud citizen of the United States, and a fellow citizen of the world.

I know that I don't look like the Americans who've previously spoken in this great city. The journey that led me here is improbable. My mother was born in the heartland of America, but my father grew up herding goats in Kenya. His father – my grandfather – was a cook, a domestic servant to the British.

At the height of the Cold War, my father decided, like so many others in the forgotten corners of the world, that his yearning – his dream – required the freedom and opportunity promised by the West. And so he wrote letter after letter to universities all across America until somebody, somewhere answered his prayer for a better life.

That is why I'm here. And you are here because you too know that yearning. This city, of all cities, knows the dream of freedom. And you know that the only reason we stand here tonight is because men and women from both of our nations came together to work, and struggle, and sacrifice for that better life.

Ours is a partnership that truly began sixty years ago this summer, on the day when the first American plane touched down at Tempelhof.

On that day, much of this continent still lay in ruin. The rubble of this city had yet to be built into a wall. The Soviet shadow had swept across Eastern Europe, while in the West, America, Britain, and France took stock of their losses, and pondered how the world might be remade.

This is where the two sides met. And on the twenty-fourth of June, 1948, the Communists chose to blockade the western part of the city. They cut off food and supplies to more than two million Germans in an effort to extinguish the last flame of freedom in Berlin.

The size of our forces was no match for the much larger Soviet Army. And yet retreat would have allowed Communism to march across Europe. Where the last war had ended, another World War could have easily begun. All that stood in the way was Berlin.

And that's when the airlift began – when the largest and most unlikely rescue in history brought food and hope to the people of this city.

The odds were stacked against success. In the winter, a heavy fog filled the sky above, and many planes were forced to turn back without dropping off the needed supplies. The streets where we stand were filled with hungry families who had no comfort from the cold.

But in the darkest hours, the people of Berlin kept the flame of hope burning. The people of Berlin refused to give up. And on one fall day, hundreds of thousands of Berliners came here, to the Tiergarten, and heard the city's mayor implore the world not to give up on freedom. "There is only one possibility," he said. "For us to stand together united until this battle is won...The people of Berlin have spoken. We have done our duty, and we will keep on doing our duty. People of the world: now do your duty...People of the world, look at Berlin!"

People of the world – look at Berlin!

Look at Berlin, where Germans and Americans learned to work together and trust each other less than three years after facing each other on the field of battle.

Look at Berlin, where the determination of a people met the generosity of the Marshall Plan and created a German miracle; where a victory over tyranny gave rise to NATO, the greatest alliance ever formed to defend our common security.

Look at Berlin, where the bullet holes in the buildings and the somber stones and pillars near the Brandenburg Gate insist that we never forget our common humanity.

People of the world – look at Berlin, where a wall came down, a continent came together, and history proved that there is no challenge too great for a world that stands as one.

Sixty years after the airlift, we are called upon again. History has led us to a new crossroad, with new promise and new peril. When you, the German people, tore down that wall – a wall that divided East and West; freedom and tyranny; fear and hope – walls came tumbling down around the world. From Kiev to Cape Town, prison camps were closed, and the doors of democracy were opened. Markets opened too, and the spread of information and technology reduced barriers to opportunity and prosperity. While the 20th century taught us that we share a common destiny, the 21st has revealed a world more intertwined than at any time in human history.

The fall of the Berlin Wall brought new hope. But that very closeness has given rise to new dangers – dangers that cannot be contained within the borders of a country or by the distance of an ocean.

The terrorists of September 11th plotted in Hamburg and trained in Kandahar and Karachi before killing thousands from all over the globe on American soil.

As we speak, cars in Boston and factories in Beijing are melting the ice caps in the Arctic, shrinking coastlines in the Atlantic, and bringing drought to farms from Kansas to Kenya.

Poorly secured nuclear material in the former Soviet Union, or secrets from a scientist in Pakistan could help build a bomb that detonates in Paris. The poppies in Afghanistan become the heroin in Berlin. The poverty and violence in Somalia breeds the terror of tomorrow. The genocide in Darfur shames the conscience of us all.

In this new world, such dangerous currents have swept along faster than our efforts to contain them. That is why we cannot afford to be divided. No one nation, no matter how large or powerful, can defeat such challenges alone. None of us can deny these threats, or escape responsibility in meeting them. Yet, in the absence of Soviet tanks and a terrible wall, it has become easy to forget this truth. And if we're honest with each other, we know that sometimes, on both sides of the Atlantic, we have drifted apart, and forgotten our shared destiny.

In Europe, the view that America is part of what has gone wrong in our world, rather than a force to help make it right, has become all too common. In America, there are voices that deride and deny the importance of Europe's role in our security and our future. Both views miss the truth – that Europeans today are bearing new burdens and taking more responsibility in critical parts of the world; and that just as American bases built in the last century still help to defend the security of this continent, so does our country still sacrifice greatly for freedom around the globe.

Yes, there have been differences between America and Europe. No doubt, there will be differences in the future. But the burdens of global citizenship continue to bind us together. A change of leadership in Washington will not lift this burden. In this new century, Americans and Europeans alike will be required to do more – not less. Partnership and cooperation among nations is not a choice; it is the one way, the only way, to protect our common security and advance our common humanity.

That is why the greatest danger of all is to allow new walls to divide us from one another.

The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand. The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes; natives and immigrants; Christian and Muslim and Jew cannot stand. These now are the walls we must tear down.

We know they have fallen before. After centuries of strife, the people of Europe have formed a Union of promise and prosperity. Here, at the base of a column built to mark victory in war, we meet in the center of a Europe at peace. Not only have walls come down in Berlin, but they have come down in Belfast, where Protestant and Catholic found a way to live together; in the Balkans, where our Atlantic alliance ended wars and brought savage war criminals to justice; and in South Africa, where the struggle of a courageous people defeated apartheid.

So history reminds us that walls can be torn down. But the task is never easy. True partnership and true progress requires constant work and sustained sacrifice. They require sharing the burdens of development and diplomacy; of progress and peace. They require allies who will listen to each other, learn from each other and, most of all, trust each other.

That is why America cannot turn inward. That is why Europe cannot turn inward. America has no better partner than Europe. Now is the time to build new bridges across the globe as strong as the one that

bound us across the Atlantic. Now is the time to join together, through constant cooperation, strong institutions, shared sacrifice, and a global commitment to progress, to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It was this spirit that led airlift planes to appear in the sky above our heads, and people to assemble where we stand today. And this is the moment when our nations – and all nations – must summon that spirit anew.

This is the moment when we must defeat terror and dry up the well of extremism that supports it. This threat is real and we cannot shrink from our responsibility to combat it. If we could create NATO to face down the Soviet Union, we can join in a new and global partnership to dismantle the networks that have struck in Madrid and Amman; in London and Bali; in Washington and New York. If we could win a battle of ideas against the communists, we can stand with the vast majority of Muslims who reject the extremism that leads to hate instead of hope.

This is the moment when we must renew our resolve to rout the terrorists who threaten our security in Afghanistan, and the traffickers who sell drugs on your streets. No one welcomes war. I recognize the enormous difficulties in Afghanistan. But my country and yours have a stake in seeing that NATO's first mission beyond Europe's borders is a success. For the people of Afghanistan, and for our shared security, the work must be done. America cannot do this alone. The Afghan people need our troops and your troops; our support and your support to defeat the Taliban and al Qaeda, to develop their economy, and to help them rebuild their nation. We have too much at stake to turn back now.

This is the moment when we must renew the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. The two superpowers that faced each other across the wall of this city came too close too often to destroying all we have built and all that we love. With that wall gone, we need not stand idly by and watch the further spread of the deadly atom. It is time to secure all loose nuclear materials; to stop the spread of nuclear weapons; and to reduce the arsenals from another era. This is the moment to begin the work of seeking the peace of a world without nuclear weapons.

This is the moment when every nation in Europe must have the chance to choose its own tomorrow free from the shadows of yesterday. In this century, we need a strong European Union that deepens the security and prosperity of this continent, while extending a hand abroad. In this century – in this city of all cities – we must reject the Cold War mind-set of the past, and resolve to work with Russia when we can, to stand up for our values when we must, and to seek a partnership that extends across this entire continent.

This is the moment when we must build on the wealth that open markets have created, and share its benefits more equitably. Trade has been a cornerstone of our growth and global development. But we will not be able to sustain this growth if it favors the few, and not the many. Together, we must forge trade that truly rewards the work that creates wealth, with meaningful protections for our people and our planet. This is the moment for trade that is free and fair for all.

This is the moment we must help answer the call for a new dawn in the Middle East. My country must stand with yours and with Europe in sending a direct message to Iran that it must abandon its nuclear ambitions. We must support the Lebanese who have marched and bled for democracy, and the Israelis and Palestinians who seek a secure and lasting peace. And despite past differences, this is the moment when the world should support the millions of Iraqis who seek to rebuild their lives, even as we pass responsibility to the Iraqi government and finally bring this war to a close.

This is the moment when we must come together to save this planet. Let us resolve that we will not leave our children a world where the oceans rise and famine spreads and terrible storms devastate our lands. Let us resolve that all nations – including my own – will act with the same seriousness of purpose as has your nation, and reduce the carbon we send into our atmosphere. This is the moment to give our children back their future. This is the moment to stand as one.

And this is the moment when we must give hope to those left behind in a globalized world. We must remember that the Cold War born in this city was not a battle for land or treasure. Sixty years ago, the planes that flew over Berlin did not drop bombs; instead they delivered food, and coal, and candy to grateful children. And in that show of solidarity, those pilots won more than a military victory. They won

hearts and minds; love and loyalty and trust – not just from the people in this city, but from all those who heard the story of what they did here.

Now the world will watch and remember what we do here – what we do with this moment. Will we extend our hand to the people in the forgotten corners of this world who yearn for lives marked by dignity and opportunity; by security and justice? Will we lift the child in Bangladesh from poverty, shelter the refugee in Chad, and banish the scourge of AIDS in our time?

Will we stand for the human rights of the dissident in Burma, the blogger in Iran, or the voter in Zimbabwe? Will we give meaning to the words “never again” in Darfur?

Will we acknowledge that there is no more powerful example than the one each of our nations projects to the world? Will we reject torture and stand for the rule of law? Will we welcome immigrants from different lands, and shun discrimination against those who don’t look like us or worship like we do, and keep the promise of equality and opportunity for all of our people?

People of Berlin – people of the world – this is our moment. This is our time.

I know my country has not perfected itself. At times, we’ve struggled to keep the promise of liberty and equality for all of our people. We’ve made our share of mistakes, and there are times when our actions around the world have not lived up to our best intentions.

But I also know how much I love America. I know that for more than two centuries, we have strived – at great cost and great sacrifice – to form a more perfect union; to seek, with other nations, a more hopeful world. Our allegiance has never been to any particular tribe or kingdom – indeed, every language is spoken in our country; every culture has left its imprint on ours; every point of view is expressed in our public squares. What has always united us – what has always driven our people; what drew my father to America’s shores – is a set of ideals that speak to aspirations shared by all people: that we can live free from fear and free from want; that we can speak our minds and assemble with whomever we choose and worship as we please.

These are the aspirations that joined the fates of all nations in this city. These aspirations are bigger than anything that drives us apart. It is because of these aspirations that the airlift began. It is because of these aspirations that all free people – everywhere – became citizens of Berlin. It is in pursuit of these aspirations that a new generation – our generation – must make our mark on the world.

People of Berlin – and people of the world – the scale of our challenge is great. The road ahead will be long. But I come before you to say that we are heirs to a struggle for freedom. We are a people of improbable hope. With an eye toward the future, with resolve in our hearts, let us remember this history, and answer our destiny, and remake the world once again.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



tanker (2008-07-24 13:32:00)

There was a concert befor obama got there! That’s why there were so many germans there. I lived in germany and they were not there to see him. What a joke. I was noot going to vote this year but I have to vote for McCain. obama is such a looser!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sanjay (2008-07-24 18:09:00)

This was a great speech!

Even conservatives agree, I went on a conservative blog, and they praised him

<http://stockparadise.blogspot.com/2008/07/debreif-obamas-speech.html>

Obama Bounce? (2008-07-25 07:44)

Fox News released a poll yesterday suggesting that Barack Obama got no bounce from his overseas road trip. It seems a little early to me to be taking such a survey in the first place. Usually takes a few days to several days for events like this to register in poll results.

However, I think the big thing about the global tour is how it registers with the Democratic base. This is something not lost to Republicans who over the last few decades have always played to their base – known to many Democrats as "right-wing nut-jobs."

On the Democratic side though, it has been the practice for many years now for candidates to distance themselves from the base, known to Republican stalwarts as "bleeding heart liberals." However, lately the latter, who are also known as "Yellow Dog Democrats" have been getting more love especially since Howard Dean ran for office. The opposite of a Yellow Dog is a Blue Dog. Among Blue Dogs, Bill Clinton is known as "Big Dog."

Barack Obama is in many ways a Howard Dean kind of guy. He's following Dean's 50 state strategy, for example. And Obama knows how to fire up some libs when he's in that mood.

Of course, there was much distress recently among the Yellow Dogs when Obama seemingly began to 'drift' toward the center after clinching the Democratic nomination. But this world trip, is just what the doctor ordered for the progressive bunch. Liberals like a president who is popular overseas with our allies. Conservatives tend to think of Europe as "socialist."

While conservative may have looked at the huge crowd of 200,000 Germans who came to see Obama in Berlin with a suspicious eye, the bleeding hearts of lefties were more likely filled with joy.

And Obama will need the base of the party for his 50 state strategy to work. It is from this base that he will pull the volunteers needed to register voters and then assure they go to vote in November.

I'm betting that this trip has pacified many of Barack's supporters on the left who were fearing that Barack was going Blue Dog on them.

[EMBED]

Obama on the road.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2008-07-25 09:16)

Watch the press conference of Sen. Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy live in Paris.

[EMBED]

More on McCain Strategy by David Plouffe (2008-07-25 16:18)

Obama Campaign Manager David Plouffe discusses in the following video the treasure chest raised by John McCain and the Republican National Committee.

In June they had raised nearly \$100 million, and are currently spending about three times as much on television ads compared to the Obama campaign. Plouffe calls on Obama's grassroots supporters to pitch in to combat the money assault.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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German Moments: Obama and McCain (2008-07-25 20:24)

X



Barack Obama in front of the Victory Tower before his speech in Berlin.

X

John McCain press conference in front of Schimdt's Fudge Haus in Columbus.



Crowd of 200,000 gathered to hear Sen. Obama.

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Tim Dick, owner of Schidmt's Fudge Haus waits for Sen. McCain and Sen. Graham to pay for their box of fudge, positioning himself between the senators and their vehicles.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama in London (2008-07-26 09:48)

Sen. Barack Obama met today with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at his London residence, and former Prime Minister Tony Blair and Conservative Party leader David Cameron at 10 Downing Street.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

News coverage of Obama's European visit from yesterday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama sends letter to the Dalai Lama (2008-07-26 13:15)

Sen. John McCain's decision to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who is on a speaking tour of the United States, surprised many pundits.

Republicans tend to be closer to China than Democrats, especially on issues of trade. And for that reason, China often publicly endorses Republican candidates for the U.S. presidency. This trade relationship tends to supersede any concern for human rights in the fast-growing Asian nation.

It may be that he wanted to appear as tougher on China than previous Republican administrations, and McCain was one of the first people to say he would boycott the Olympic Opening Ceremonies to protest the harsh crackdown on Tibetan dissidents.

Sen. Obama also has said that he would boycott the opening ceremonies and today he had a letter delivered by Ambassador Jeffrey Bader to the Dalai Lama.

Barack Obama

July 24, 2008

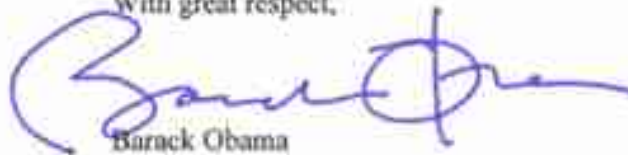
Your Holiness,

I regret that our respective travel schedules will prevent us from meeting during your visit to the United States this month, but I wanted to take the opportunity to reassure you of my highest respect and support for you, your mission and your people at this critical time. I hope that this letter and your meeting with Senator McCain will make clear that American attention to and backing for the people of Tibet is widespread and transcends the divisions of our political contest in this important election year.

I was heartened to read of the continuing dialogue between your representatives and the government of the People's Republic of China. Although progress is likely to be slow, and the travails of the people of Tibet will continue, I am hopeful that the process of dialogue and negotiation will bring positive results if both sides demonstrate good intentions and mutual respect. I remain optimistic that this process will continue beyond the Beijing Olympics, and pledge that I will continue to support it. The right to practice their religious beliefs without punishment or obstruction is one that should be accorded the people of Tibet, and I will continue to encourage the Chinese government to put aside its suspicions and act in accordance with its own constitution.

I will continue to support you and the rights of Tibetans. People of all faiths can admire what you are doing and what you stand for, and I look forward to meeting you at another time.

With great respect,



Barack Obama



Obama for America • PO Box 8210 • Chicago, IL 60680 • BarackObama.com

Paid for by Obama for America



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Video: Barack Obama @ 10 Downing Street (2008-07-26 18:24)

Here's video of Barack Obama answering reporters questions in front of 10 Downing St. in London, the capital of the United Kingdom.

[EMBED]

An astute European observer on Facebook asked whether I thought Barack would be taking any more foreign trips. After all, he notes, the Illinois senator got a good bump in the latest national polls. The bounce is much larger than the slight gains McCain received in a few swing states where the increase was less than the margin of error for either the current poll or the preceding one.

The old-timers say its unusual for a presidential candidate to take such long foreign trips especially at this point in the election. They would rather be in swing states pressing the flesh with voters. So, if there is a foreign trip it will probably be a short one, for example, a visit to the Beijing Olympics. Barack has already said he would not attend the opening ceremonies in protest of the Chinese crackdown in Tibet, but he could decide to stop by. He's a sports fan and the trip could be justified by his handlers as a great PR opportunity. Obama for America is already spending millions in a nearly unprecedented Olympics television ad campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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David Miller (2008-07-27 05:41:00)

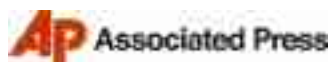
I must say the Obama is looking pretty presidential in his recent visits to the Middle East and Europe. Let's hope that the country, and in particular the economy, improve.

100 Days to go (2008-07-27 11:32)

With 100 days left until the November presidential election, Barack Obama returned to the United States for more direct campaigning.

Barack started with an appearance at the UNITY '08 Convention of minority journalists.

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Sun Jul 27, 1:35 PM ET

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, speaks during a forum at the UNITY '08 Convention in Chicago, Sunday, July 27, 2008, with CNN anchor Suzanne Malveaux and Romesh Ratnesar with Time Magazine.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc. is a coalition of the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Native American Journalists Association.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: Barack at Unity 08 Convention (2008-07-27 18:27)

Here' video of Sen. Barack Obama at the quadrennial Unity 08 Convention of minority journalists in Chicago. CNN's Suzanne Malveaux and Time world editor Romesh Ratnesar interview the senator on issues that include Afghanistan, Iraq and the national economy. Sen. John McCain was also invited but was unable to attend.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama and McCain Split on Affirmative Action (2008-07-28 07:26)

An Arizona ballot initiative to ban affirmative action is bringing into focus another clear difference between presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama.

The affirmative action ban is sponsored by Ward Connerly, an African American conservative from Sacramento who spearheaded a ban in California and is campaigning for the cause in other states.

McCain supports the initiative, something Obama has characterized as a flip-flop from the senator's earlier position in which he supported affirmative action in some cases. In 1998, McCain opposed state legislation to end affirmative action in Arizona.

Obama reiterated his support for affirmative action at the Unity Convention of minority journalists yesterday.

"I am a strong supporter of affirmative action when properly structured so there it is not a quota, but it is acknowledging and taking into account some of the hardships and difficulties that communities of color may have experienced, continue to experience, and it also speaks to the value of diversity in all walks of American life," he said.

The issue could become an important one especially in the neighboring battleground states of New Mexico and Nevada, where there are large Latino and Native American populations.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's Plan for Working Women and Families (2008-07-28 13:00)

Michelle Obama will unveil her husband's full plan for working women and families today at a Women for Obama luncheon in Chicago.

Women are more frequent voters than men and the Obama campaign is making significant efforts to reach out to them.

Following is a note by Michelle on working women and their families, followed by the plan itself in iPaper format.

For working families trying to balance jobs and kids and maybe even aging parents of their own, the American Dream can feel like it's slipping away.

Over the course of this campaign, I've had the chance to sit down with so many working women across the country. I've talked with mothers struggling to make ends meet because their salaries aren't keeping up with the cost of groceries or the price of gas. I've listened to the moms who are nervous about taking time off to care for a sick child, and the moms-to-be who are scared of getting fired if the boss finds out they're pregnant.

Then there are women who work hard every day doing the same jobs as men, but earning less. And the military families, who struggle to make ends meet with one paycheck where there used to be two. They welcome their loved ones home with full hearts but little support from their government for their service. These struggles – the struggles of working women and families across America – aren't new to me or to any of us. And they're certainly not new to Barack.

As President, Barack will expand the Family and Medical Leave Act, so that millions of additional Americans will be able to take time off to care for a baby or an elderly parent – or just to have a few hours to attend a school play or a parent-teacher conference or take a child to the doctor. Barack will require employers to provide all their workers with at least seven paid sick days a year, and ensure that women are paid fairly for their hard work.

This agenda is about helping women reclaim their dreams for themselves and their families. It's about giving them a helping hand, not a handout. The subjects here are near to my heart, and they're at the center of this campaign. But the policies will only succeed if they address your needs. So please let us know what you think.

Best,

Michelle Obama

Barack Obama's Plan to Support Working Women and Families - Upload a Document to Scribd

Read this document on Scribd: Barack Obama's Plan to Support Working Women and Families

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack meets with Top Economic Advisers in DC (2008-07-29 07:25)

Sen. Barack Obama met yesterday with economic advisers that included Warren Buffett, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and Google Chairman Eric Schmidt in Washington DC.

In a statement before the meeting, Obama mentioned the housing crisis and those who had "gamed" the system to the harm of many, and also the increasing number of people 'mired in debt.' Among the key points of his economic plan include reducing reliance on foreign oil while at the same time creating jobs by investing billions in green energy sources, delivering a universal health care system and improving the education system.

Yesterday, the Bush administration announced that this year's national budget deficit would reach an all-time record of nearly half a trillion dollars. Record numbers of Americans are in deep personal debt. The use of credit cards to pay for ordinary living expenses has become so high that many companies watch for signs of "emergency spending," in order to cancel lines of credit. Young people report the use of credit cards because their pay is not enough for basic

living costs.

[EMBED]

Here's a video of the Obama's statement.

[EMBED]

The economic leaders who met with Senator Obama yesterday included:

- Jared Bernstein (Senior Economist, Economic Policy Institute)
- Bill Bradley (Former Senator, D-N.J., U.S. Senate 1979-1997)
- Warren Buffet (Chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway) - joined the meeting by phone
- Anna Burger (Chair, Change to Win; International Secretary-Treasurer, Service Employees International Union)
- Jon Corzine (Governor, State of New Jersey)
- William Daley (Chairman of the Midwest, JP Morgan Chase; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept of Commerce, 1997-2000)
- James Dimon (Chairman and CEO, JPMorgan Chase)
- William Donaldson (27th Chairman of the SEC 2003-2005)
- Indra Nooyi (Chairman and CEO, PepsiCo Inc.)
- Paul O'Neill (Special Advisor, Blackstone Group, Former Secretary, U.S. Dept of Treasury, 2001-2002; Former CEO, Alcoa)
- Federico Peña (Managing Director, Vestar Capital Partners; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Energy, 1997-1998; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, 1993-1997; Former Mayor, City of Denver 1983-1991)
- Penny Pritzker (CEO, Classic Residence by Hyatt)
- Robert Reich (University of California, Berkeley; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept of Labor, 1993-1997)
- Robert Rubin (Chairman and Director of the Executive Committee, Citigroup; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept of Treasury, 1995-1999)
- Eric Schmidt (Chairman and CEO, Google)
- William Spriggs (Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, Howard University)
- Lawrence Summers (Harvard University; Managing Director, D.E. Shaw; Former Secretary, U.S. Dept of Treasury, 1999-2001)
- John Sweeney (President, AFL-CIO)
- Laura Tyson (Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley; Former Chairman, National Economic Council, 1995-1996; Former Chairman, President's Council of Economic Advisors, 1993-1995)
- Paul Volcker (Former Chairman, U.S. Federal Reserve 1979-1987)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama Backstage with Barack (2008-07-29 12:49)

Michelle Obama sent out this email to campaign supporters today.



Amanda –

Barack likes to tell a story about the two of us standing backstage before his speech at the 2004 Democratic Convention.

The way he tells it, he was too busy in the days before the convention to feel any pressure – but about an hour before the speech, I could tell he was getting a little nervous.

To break the tension, right before he went out on stage I leaned in close and said, "Just don't screw it up,

buddy.”

We laughed. And then Barack brought the house down.

This year, the house is going to be a lot bigger. More than 75,000 people will be in Denver to be part of this important moment, and I want to tell you about an opportunity to join Barack backstage before his acceptance speech.

Ten supporters who make a donation in any amount by midnight this Thursday, July 31st, will be selected to fly to Denver, spend a couple of nights in a hotel, participate in the convention, and go Backstage with Barack. Each supporter who is selected will also get to bring a guest along to share the experience. Make a contribution today and you could have your own Backstage with Barack story to tell:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/backstage>

Barack’s speech at the convention will be a culmination of the unlikely journey that has brought all of us so far over the past 17 months.

He will call on us to come together and work for change – not just to win this election, but to make things better for all Americans.

Seeing it in person will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I’m excited about being there, and if you make a donation before the deadline, you could join Barack backstage:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/backstage>

Thanks for everything you’ve done to get us here.

Michelle



[EMBED]

Michelle Obama speaking at a Women for Obama lunch reception in Chicago, IL, yesterday, about the Obama campaign’s Blueprint for America’s Working Women and Families.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama News on Tuesday (2008-07-29 18:00)

The McCain campaign and the RNC have launched a full-scale negative ad campaign against presidential opponent Barack Obama.

One ad attacked Obama during this European trip claiming that the Illinois senator would not visit wounded troops without the press tagging along. However, Barack had already made such visits sans the press corps earlier in Iraq.

Most recently, the RNC has launched a website, BarackBook.com, a play on the popular FaceBook site where Obama’s page has enlisted more than 1.2 million supporters.

Now negative ads can work sometimes, just like positive ads, but it depends on the situation that exists at the time. It’s common practice to use them, though, when you’re consistently behind in the polls as McCain has been. He did manage to lead a recent USA Today/Gallup poll, the first survey he’s won since early May.

VP Gossip

There has been a lot of buzz out there over the fact that Barack is meeting with this vice presidential vetting team. According to the rumors, a number of people have passed muster and are not on the short list, or the shorter list including Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

Kaine was an early supporter of Obama and can only serve one term as governor. If chosen, it would give the

Democratic ticket a very youthful look, which can be viewed either positively or negatively. On the positive side, youthfulness can symbolize change. Detractors though might harp on the relative lack of experience although Kaine can claim that he has governed a state.

One curious and possible beneficial side of a Kaine pick is that his last name a lot like "McCain." In fact, I heard the two get mixed up on the news today. It's definitely possible that some voters looking for McCain might get confused and pick Kaine instead!

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack Obama holds Town Hall in Springfield, Missouri (2008-07-30 08:48)

Sen. Barack Obama held a town hall meeting in Springfield, Missouri that was broadcast live on barackobama.com. Barack has been surging in the state lately and the campaign sharply expanded its infrastructure in response. Among the subjects Barack discussed included healthcare, especially the need for expansion of preventative care, and the need for holding big business accountable for environmental degradation. Barack plans to post legislation on the internet for comments, and to have his Cabinet hold town hall meetings to discuss issues with ordinary people rather than simply interacting with lobbyists. His administration will also restrict appointees from taking lobbyist jobs. Sen. Obama also accommodated an audience member who asked for a fist bump. In other news, John McCain continued his negative ad campaign with a new television spot that flashes pictures of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton over the background of Obama's Berlin speech, in trying to downplay Barack's celebrity.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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(2008-07-30 13:03)

The LA Times blog, Hero Complex, is reporting that both Barack Obama and

Fundraising Deadline is Tomorrow (2008-07-30 15:59)

The July fundraising deadline is tomorrow, July 31, at midnight. This month should be interesting because if the previous month is any indication, then the Obama campaign and the

1268

DNC should pull ahead of McCain and the RNC is war-chest funds.

Possibly McCain has been spending more than Obama this month with more than three times as many television ads for the Republicans. However, the Obama camp has also been spending money in opening up offices and expanding staff personnel. McCain's television spending is likely an attempt to catch up in the polls where he's been lagging behind his opponent.

Most of the money the candidates are raising now, must be spent before the start of the general election season, which starts after the respective party convention.

The numbers for fundraising may be released early to avoid the distraction of the Olympics once they start about a week from now. There are also rumors that both candidates may announce their VP picks before the Beijing opening ceremonies in order to dominate the news cycle, which will be impossible once the games start.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video: "Low Road" (2008-07-30 21:14)

Barack Obama's campaign released a new television ad addressing the negative attack ad blitz by the McCain camp. The ad titled "Low Road," shows newspaper quotes refuting the attacks and then outlines Obama's correct positions including a \$1,000 middle class tax cut, and an energy plan that breaks dependence on foreign oil and invests in clean renewable energy.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's New Energy Initiative (2008-07-31 08:46)

Campaigning deep in Republican territory, Barack Obama called for a national energy independence initiative similar to the 1960s Apollo mission to the moon.

Obama and McCain have split on the issue of offshore oil drilling with McCain supporting George W. Bush's call for new exploration. Obama notes that it will take at least 10 years to bring oil to the market with new drilling by which time it will only account for a minuscule percent of American consumption.

The Illinois senator instead suggests investing \$15 billion a year for 10 years in new spending on clean energy technologies.

Practically this 10 year plan will provide a more lasting and effective solution than a resumption of offshore drilling with the latter plan likely generating intense opposition.

The money for Obama's green energy spending will come from ending tax breaks and loopholes that currently exist for energy companies, and by taxing companies that emit large quantities of climate-changing carbon into the atmosphere.

Barack also wants to initiate a plan that will increase overall energy efficiency by 50 percent by the year 2030.

For More Information about Barack's Plan

- ✖ Read the Energy Plan
- ✖ Read the Environment Plan

✖

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

'Paris Hilton Tax Break' (2008-07-31 14:38)

In response to John McCain's television ad comparing Barack Obama to Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, Dogtown-ink.com has released a funny video highlighting the "Paris Hilton tax cut."

The Paris Hilton tax cut is W's 'bleeding heart' tax aide aimed for the wealthiest of wealthy Americans. McCain promises to maintain the rich folk tax breaks, while Obama pledges to roll them back to pre-Bush levels.

Here's the video.

[EMBED]

Also, an interesting tidbit of news. It appears that heiress Paris Hilton's dad is a contributor to the McCain campaign.

[EMBED]

Slide show from Obama's Economic Security Town Hall in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Read Sen. Obama's full remarks, as prepared for delivery . . .

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Econniff (2008-07-31 17:13:00)

Haha! That's great! He deserves it after making such a childish attack. Here's another good parody of it that i found:

<http://www.iklipz.com/MovieDetail.aspx?MovieID=2dcdee63-0f9c-45ce-9064-92e6a9331acf>

2.8 August

Obama announces Emergency Economic Plan (2008-08-01 07:34)

Sen. Barack Obama announced a dramatic emergency economy plan today.

To help families cope with the rising costs of energy, Obama is proposing an energy rebate of \$1000 for families (\$500 for individuals).

In addition, the Illinois senator proposes a \$50 million economic stimulus plan. Half of the money will go to states to help prevent program cuts due to revenue shortfalls. The other half will fund infrastructure, specifically highways, bridges and schools.

Money for the plan will come from excess oil company profits.

The announcement of the plan demonstrates Barack's recognition of the pressing economic difficulties caused by rising fuel and food prices, dwindling credit, the housing crisis and other factors.

In comparison, John McCain's plan simply calls for a gas tax holiday. How though will the government make up for

lost revenues given the already huge budget shortfalls?
Here is Obama's statement on the new plan.

Today, we learned that 51,000 jobs were lost last month, the seventh straight month of job loss – now totaling 463,00 jobs lost since the beginning of this year. I've already called for an economic stimulus package on two different occasions this year, and much of what I've proposed has passed in Congress. These efforts have made some difference. But with job losses mounting, prices rising, increased turbulence in our financial system, and a growing credit crunch, we need to do more.

That's why today I'm announcing a two-part emergency plan to help struggling families make ends meet and get our economy back on track. The first part of my plan is a \$1,000 emergency energy rebate that could go out to families as soon as this fall. This rebate will be enough to offset the increased cost of gas for a working family over the next 4 months. Or, if you live in a state where it gets very cold in the winter, it will be enough to cover the entire increase in your heating bills. Or you could use the rebate for any of your other bills or even to pay down debt. As we provide relief, we must also be mindful of the swelling budget deficit. That is why I am proposing that we pay for this rebate by taxing the windfall profits of oil companies so we can use some of their record profits to help families pay record prices.

The second part of my plan is a \$50 billion stimulus to help jump-start job creation and help local communities that are struggling due to our economic downturn. Half of this stimulus will go to state governments that are facing big budget shortfalls. The other half of this stimulus will be used to invest in our national infrastructure, replenish the Highway Trust Fund, rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges, and repair our crumbling schools.

Today's jobs report is an urgent reminder that we cannot afford four more years of the failed Bush economic policies, and that is what Senator McCain is offering. He's proposing to cut the gasoline tax paid by the oil companies and trust that they will pass on the savings in the form of lower prices at the pump. And he's also proposing tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans in the hopes that a little bit of it will trickle down to ordinary Americans. I do not believe that giving \$4 billion in new tax cuts to oil companies will create any jobs or save you any money. I believe that if we want relief for families, we should give relief to families, not oil companies. If we want to create jobs, we should do more to make work pay for ordinary Americans, not boost the profits of oil companies. It's time to restore fairness and balance to our economy and we can start by passing the emergency economic plan that I'm proposing today.

Read the full plan.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-08-01 12:46:00)

Have you guys seen the new animated version of Get Your War On? Whichever side of the aisle you're on, I'm pretty sure you'll find this video funny, whether you're a terrorist, non-terrorist, or simply a neglected unlisted terrorist: http://www.236.com/video/2008/get_your_war_on_the_watch_list_1_8056.php

Video: Obama on the Road (2008-08-01 18:26)

On August 1st, 2008, Barack Obama held a town hall meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida where he talked about the Bush economy. Florida is in recession for the first time in 60 years.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama answers a question at a town hall meeting in Rolla, Missouri.

[EMBED]

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Barack listens to questions by people affected by last month's flooding.

[EMBED]

Also, check out Barack's page at [Scribd.com/BarackObama](https://www.scribd.com/BarackObama) where there are already more than 30 documents detailing Obama's policy including:

Barack's Working Women and Families Blueprint

Barack Obama's Emergency Economic Plan

Barack Obama's Policy Positions on Healthcare

Barack Obama's Policy Positions on Energy

And Barack Obama's Blueprint for Change.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Speaks at 'Space City, USA' (2008-08-02 08:56)

Sen. Barack Obama spoke in Titusville, Florida, close to the Kennedy Space Center and NASA, and known as "Space City, USA."

Barack notes how the current administration has been anti-science and will leave the space program dependent on Russian spacecraft after the shuttle program terminates in 2010. He proposes adding an additional shuttle flight and speeding up the development of the shuttle's successor craft.

[EMBED]

An Obama administration will use technology developed at NASA to help deal with other problems related to climate change and energy independence.

Here are the senator's remarks as prepared for delivery.

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama

Town Hall on the Economy

As Prepared For Delivery

Titusville, Florida

Saturday, August 2, 2008

I've often said that this election is a defining moment in our history. On major issues like the war in Iraq or the warming of our planet, the decisions we make in November and over the next few years will shape a generation, if not a century. Nowhere is that more true than when it comes to our economy.

You don't have to watch TV or read the newspaper to know what's happening – you feel it in your own lives and in your own communities. July was the seventh straight month of job loss. Gas prices are out of control. Food prices are soaring. If you're lucky enough to have health care, your copays, deductibles, and premiums are skyrocketing. College is becoming less affordable. And we've seen more foreclosures than at any time since the Great Depression. Back in the 1990s, your incomes grew by \$6,000, and over the last several years, they've actually fallen by nearly \$1,000.

So for millions of families, these anxieties are growing worse. Many people are losing faith in that fundamental promise of America – that if you work hard, you'll be able to build a better life not just for

yourself, but for your children and grandchildren.

Part of it has to do with fundamental changes in our economy. Over the last few decades, revolutions in technology and communication have made it so that corporations can send good jobs wherever there's an internet connection. Children here in Titusville aren't just growing up competing for good jobs with children in California or Indiana, but with children in Beijing and Bangalore.

But what we also have to remember is that our economic problems aren't simply due to changes in how our economy works, and they aren't just a normal part of the business cycle. They're also due to irresponsible decisions that were made on Wall Street and in Washington. In recent years, we have relearned the essential truth that in the long run, we cannot have a thriving Wall Street and a struggling Main Street. When wages are flat, prices are rising, and more Americans are mired in debt, the economy as a whole suffers. When a reckless few game the system, as we've seen in this housing crisis, millions suffer and we're all affected. When special interests put their thumb on the scale, and distort the free market, the people who compete by the rules come in last. And when our government fails to meet its obligation – to provide sensible oversight and stand on the side of working people and invest in their future – America pays a heavy price.

So we have a choice to make in this election. We can either choose a new direction for our economy, or we can keep doing what we've been doing. My opponent believes we're on the right course. He's said our economy has made great progress these past eight years. He's embraced the Bush economic policies and promises to continue them.

Well, I just want to ask you a simple question. Are you better off now than you were four years ago or eight years ago? Can you afford another four years of the same economic policies that we've had under George W. Bush?

We've tried those policies. They haven't worked. It's time to leave them in the past where they belong. It's time for something new. It's time to restore balance and fairness to our economy so it works for all Americans, recognizing that we must grow together, Wall Street and Main Street, profits and wages.

That starts with easing the burden on hardworking families. If I'm elected President, I'll put a \$1,000 tax cut in the pockets of 95 % of workers and their families. I'll provide relief to struggling homeowners. I'll eliminate income taxes for seniors making under \$50,000 a year. And I'll give working parents the support they need by making childcare affordable and expanding paid leave – and we'll make sure that women get equal pay for equal work.

But you need relief right now. That's why yesterday, I announced a two-part emergency plan to help struggling families make ends meet and get our economy back on track. The first part of my plan is to tax the windfall profits of oil companies and use some of that money to help you pay the rising price of gas. Now, this is an area where my opponent and I disagree – because he opposes using this money to help you pay your bills.

The other day, we learned that Exxon Mobil made nearly \$12 billion last quarter. To put it another way, they made \$1,500 every second. That's more than \$300,000 in the time it takes you to fill up a tank of gas. And Senator McCain actually wants to give oil companies like Exxon another \$4 billion in tax cuts. Well, I don't think we should be giving tax breaks to oil companies that are doing better than ever at a time when you're struggling more than ever. It's time to use some of their record profits to help you pay record prices by putting a \$1,000 emergency energy rebate in the pockets of working families.

The second part of my plan is a \$50 billion stimulus to help jump-start job creation and help local communities that are struggling due to our economic downturn. Half of this stimulus will go to state governments that are facing big budget shortfalls. And we'll invest the other half in our national infrastructure so we can create new jobs and save over one million jobs that are in danger of being cut, rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges, and repair our crumbling schools.

And we have to do more than provide short-term relief. We have to secure our long-term prosperity and strengthen America's competitiveness in the 21st century. One of the areas where we are in danger of losing our competitive edge is our space program. When I was growing up, NASA inspired the world with achievements we are still proud of. Today, we have an administration that has set ambitious goals for

NASA without giving NASA the support it needs to reach them. As a result, they've had to cut back on research, and trim their programs, which means that after the Space Shuttle shuts down in 2010, we're going to have to rely on Russian spacecraft to keep us in orbit.

We cannot cede our leadership in space. That's why I will help close the gap and ensure that our space program doesn't suffer when the Shuttle goes out of service by working with Senator Bill Nelson to add at least one additional Space Shuttle flight beyond 2010; by supporting continued funding for NASA; by speeding the development of the Shuttle's successor; and by making sure that all those who work in the space industry in Florida do not lose their jobs when the Shuttle is retired – because we cannot afford to lose their expertise.

More broadly, we need a real vision for space exploration. To help formulate this vision, I'll reestablish the National Aeronautics and Space Council so that we can develop a plan to explore the solar system – a plan that involves both human and robotic missions, and enlists both international partners and the private sector. And as America leads the world to long-term exploration of the moon, Mars, and beyond, let's also tap NASA's ingenuity to build the airplanes of tomorrow and to study our own planet so we can combat global climate change. Under my watch, NASA will inspire the world, make America stronger, and help grow the economy here in Florida.

That's what this election is all about. It's about raising our sights, seizing this moment, and reclaiming our destiny in this country. And yet, at a time when the stakes could not be higher – when the challenges facing our country could not be greater – my opponent is talking about Britney and Paris. Well, I think the American people deserve better. Senator McCain and I have real differences and that's what we should be talking about – because we have a real choice to make in November.

We can choose to go another four years without truly solving our energy crisis; or we can invest in renewable energies, create up to five million green jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced, and build an American green energy sector so that we're less vulnerable to oil price shocks and \$4 a gallon gas. That's what we can choose to do in this election.

We can choose to do nothing about disappearing jobs and shuttered factories for another four years, or we can encourage job creation in the United States of America. We can end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas and give them to companies that create jobs here in this country.

We can choose to go another four years with a broken health care system; or we can finally guarantee health care for anyone who wants it, make it affordable for anyone who needs it, and cut health care costs for manufactures to help make them more competitive. That's a choice we can make in this election.

We can choose to stay mired in the same education debate that's consumed Washington for decades, or we can invest in early childhood education, recruit an army of qualified teachers with better pay and more support, and make college affordable by offering an annual \$4,000 tax credit in exchange for community or national service. That's how we'll prepare every American to compete and succeed in our global economy.

We can choose to go another four years with the same reckless fiscal policies that have busted our budget, wreaked havoc on our economy, and mortgaged our children's future on a mountain of debt; or we can restore fiscal responsibility in Washington by winding down a war in Iraq that's costing \$10 billion a month, by cutting wasteful spending, by shutting corporate loopholes and tax havens, and by rolling back the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

These are the choices we face in November. We can choose to remain on the path that has led our economy into so much trouble, or we can reclaim the idea that here in this country, you can make it if you try.

In the end, that's all most Americans are asking for. It's not a lot. You don't expect government to solve all your problems. You want to be self-reliant and independent. You want to be responsible for your own lives and take care of your own families. But what you do expect is a government that isn't run by the special interests. What you do expect is that if you're willing to work hard, you should be able to find a job that pays a decent wage, that you shouldn't go bankrupt when you get sick, that you should be able

to send your children to college even if you're not rich, and that you should be able to retire with dignity and security.

That's what you should expect. And that's why I'm running for President of the United States. And if you're willing to stand with me and work with me and vote for me, then we will not just win Florida, we will win this election, and then you and I together will change this country and change this world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Power of the Network (2008-08-03 07:30)

Many still do not know how Barack Obama came from nowhere to beat powerhouse Hillary Clinton. They don't quite get what all the fuss about his online social network.

Think of all those Verizon "Power of the Network" commercials where the "Can You Hear Me Now?" guy leads a vast throng of support folk behind the cellphone user. For Barack, on websites like Facebook, that support rolls over a million deep.

It's that huge throng of people who made it possible for Barack to land 100,000 contributors, including many first-time donors, on July 31 alone, the deadline for the July fundraising period.

Like the Verizon network, the Obama crowd includes a vast diversity of people with varied talents and skills. They are linked on a local level, but also an online group level. Through the internet, they can easily reach out to relatives, old friend and classmates, etc. regardless of where they live.

And, of course, the internet makes exchange of information and updates quick, cheap and easy.

Currently, Barack's network is registering and engaging voters across the country, and when crunch time rolls around, they will mobilize to make sure every Obama supporter votes. It's this closing "get out the vote" effort that often wins presidential elections.

[EMBED]

Barack had a busy day yesterday with morning press conferences, a town hall meeting in Titusville and an address at the annual National Urban League Conference in Orlando.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama urges full voting rights for Michigan and Florida Delegates (2008-08-03 18:50)

Sen. Barack Obama is not calling for delegates from Florida and Michigan to have full voting rights at the Democratic National Convention.

"As these delegates go about the important business of the Convention, I believe Party unity calls for the delegates from Florida and Michigan to be able to participate fully alongside the delegates from the other states and territories," Obama wrote in a letter to the chairmen of the party's credentials committee.

Delegates from the two states had been allowed only half a vote each in punishment for holding their primaries before Feb. 5 against Democratic National Committee rules. Obama urged the credentials committee to pass a resolution during their Aug. 24 meeting granting the delegates full votes.

Races in both states appear close with Obama seemingly gaining momentum in Florida while McCain has been edging closer in Michigan. The Obama campaign now has 20 field offices in Michigan with the opening of the Kalamazoo

office yesterday.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bourbonnais (2008-08-04 01:16:00)

He is 100 % right, I hope they will follow him on this.

Obama Camp releases New Energy for America Ad (2008-08-04 08:11)

Today, Aug. 4 is Barack Obama 's birthday. He's 47 years old.

Barack is expected to attend a big fundraiser in downtown Boston as part of his birthday celebration. Cost per couple is reported at \$28,500.

The Illinois senator has many connections in Boston from his time at Harvard Law School. He is also good friends with Gov. Deval Patrick, a former Chicago resident.

The campaign released a new television ad today focused on Obama new energy plan. From barackobama.com:

Obama Campaign Releases TV Ad on Obama's New Energy for America Plan

by Laurin Manning,

Monday, August 04, 2008 at 07:26 AM

Obama Campaign Releases TV Ad on Obama's New Energy for America Plan

30-Second Spot Highlights Senator Obama's Plan to Offset the Costs of Rising Energy and Addresses Oil Industry Contributions to John McCain's Campaign.

CHICAGO - As Barack Obama announces his New Energy for America Plan today, the Obama campaign unveiled a new ad, one that illustrates the clear choice in this election between an approach that keeps us sending billions to oil companies and foreign governments and one that gives middle class families a \$1,000 rebate funded by a windfall profits tax on the oil companies. Pocket highlights that for far too long, we've had an energy policy that has worked for the oil companies. Barack Obama believes it's time we had an energy policy that works for the American people.

Today Senator Obama is outlining his New Energy for America plan in a speech in Lansing, Michigan. Obama's plan will provide an immediate energy rebate to Americans struggling with high gas prices, create five million new green jobs, and eliminate our need for Middle Eastern oil in 10 years.

Watch the ad below:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



How Bad is the Economy? (2008-08-04 09:29)

John McCain generally agrees with the direction that George W. Bush has taken on the economy.

Some Bush supporters have pointed to the recent news that the economy has expanded by about 2 percent as evidence that things are not so bad.

We need to look at this news though in the proper light. We can't compare economic growth under the Clinton administration, for example, when the budget was balanced, to debt-driven Bush GDP growth.

The Bush administration will register a record budget deficit this year of nearly \$500 billion.

Bragging about GDP growth like this is akin to someone boasting that they "earned" \$300,000, when they really mortgaged their house.

Debt woes

While the U.S. economy will grow by about \$275 billion this year, the amount borrowed by the government is expected to exceed \$500 billion most of which will be spent on the current budget.

Quite obviously one can say that without record government debt spending, the economy would be shrinking. Also much of the borrowed money is coming from foreign sources.

If one takes the overall debt into account, what is known as the current account deficit, the U.S. will pay about 0.8 percent of GDP this year on international debt service payments according to some estimates. That's more than 40 percent of the projected growth for 2008.

As with the dotcom and mortgage meltdowns, at some point the chickens will come home to roost on any bad debt scheme. For awhile things look great, then...

However, things already are not looking that great. People are definitely feeling the pinch. One of the reasons for this is that much of the GDP growth is just paper or transactional growth. It's not your grandpa's type of economic growth. Few or no jobs are created by this phenomenon, which can be described basically as market speculation. However, since it is taxable it is included in the GDP figures.

If you look at other statistics including money supply (M1 and M3) we are already well into recession.

Employment

Recent figures show a sharp increase in unemployment, but Bush supporters like McCain claim that unemployment figures are still at 'historically low' levels.

Again we have to know the context in order to ascertain the true meaning of these statistics.

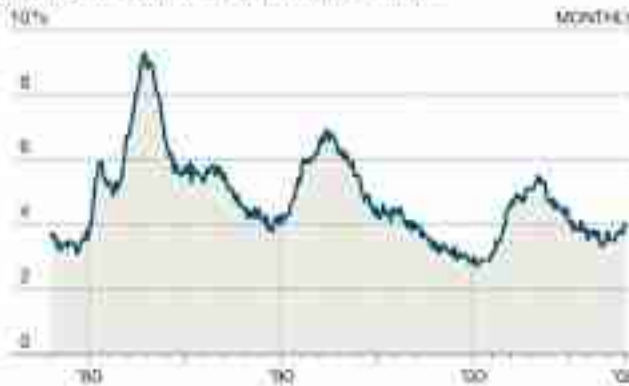
It would not be correct to compare unemployment statistics of today with those of Reagan's or Carter's time. The manner in which these stats are gleaned has changed. It's more difficult now to get unemployment checks, and facilities have been scaled down. Many people, especially in certain industries, no longer bother to register at employment offices with their long lines and ineffective services. They already know when they are ineligible or unlikely to receive any payments.

These people, along with those who give up searching due to frustration or what-not, are dropped from unemployment rolls.

The Misleading Jobless Rate

Although the unemployment rate among men ages 25 to 54 is now at a relatively low level (4 percent in January 2009), the percentage of adult men not working has risen from about 9 percent in January 1979 to almost 13 percent today.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG MEN AGES 25 TO 54



PERCENTAGE OF MEN AGES 25 TO 54 NOT WORKING



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

THE NEW YORK TIMES

From the graphic above, we can see that among adult men, at least, the percentage actually not working has no agreement with the official unemployment rate. In fact, the rates of working age men that are not working is the highest since World War II.

I won't go into all the ways that the government has found to take people off the employment rolls but they are numerous and include excluding those on Social Security disability checks and those who are incarcerated.

Another thing that has skewed unemployment rates is the high and increasing rate of underemployment. We are just beginning to fully understand the problem of underemployment brought on by the increasing practice of using part-time and temporary workers. Underemployed people often know they are not eligible for unemployment insurance and thus do not bother registering as unemployed.

Other Debts

As goes Washington, so goes the nation.

The national debt is not the only debt problem a new president will have to deal with. Everybody else seems to have followed Washington's lead from consumers to state governments.

Barack's recently announced emergency economic plan includes money to help states that are having their own deficit dilemmas.

On the corporate front, we have seen recently a number of federal bailouts for leading financial institutions. Most recently, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have joined the ranks of troubled lenders. According to the buzz, more trouble is on the way.

Consumers are also over their head in debt, and the inflation problem is not helping. Many have taken to using credit cards for ordinary living expenses. Debt to disposable income has risen to 140 % from 100 % in 2000.

Oil-centric Approach

Traditional oil politics, to which some would include the decision to invade Iraq, has allowed America's competitors to leapfrog ahead in the world of clean, renewable technology.

Not only Japan and Germany, but even nations like China and Brazil are advancing forward at a more rapid pace than the United States.

If one were to predict \$130 a barrel oil, or even oil at today's price of \$120, at the start of the first Bush administration you would have been branded a false prophet or alarmist by most "level-headed" analysts. But the fact is that all experts, including conservatives, know that it is only a matter of time before oil moves even much higher.

When the condition known as peak oil arrives, those nations that have not invested sufficiently in green tech will fall seriously behind. Offshore drilling and opening reserve stocks only distracts from the necessary steps that are needed to prepare for a new world economy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Video and iPaper: New Energy for America Plan (2008-08-04 19:03)

Barack Obama announced his New Energy for America plan this morning in Lansing, Michigan.

The main points of the plan as listed on the barackobama.com blog are:

- Providing short-term relief to American families facing pain at the pump
- Helping create five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future.
- Within 10 years, saving more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela combined.
- Putting 1 million Plug-In Hybrid cars – cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon – on the road by 2015, cars that we will work to make sure are built here in America.
- Ensuring 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.
- Implementing an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Barack also said that in 10 years following his plan the U.S. would "eliminate the need for oil from the Middle East and Venezuela."

Here's video of the entire speech.

[EMBED]

And you can read the entire energy plan below:

Barack Obama's New Energy Plan For America - Upload a Document to Scribd

Read this document on Scribd: Barack Obama's New Energy Plan For America

[EMBED]

Barack on the road from Michigan to Ohio.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama raises \$5 million on Bday (2008-08-05 08:59)

According to the Boston Globe, Barack Obama raised about \$5 million during his birthday bash in Beantown last night.

The event was also reportedly designed to help mend fences between the Obama and the old Clinton camp.

Birthday guests included Mass. Gov. Deval Patrick, Sen. John Kerry and former presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

According to Kerry, Obama wished for three things on his birthday: Indiana, Colorado and Virginia.



Barack Obama serves birthday cake to the press corps aboard his campaign plane. Obama turned 47 years old on Monday. (AP) The new cash is welcome news as the McCain campaign has announced that it is outspending Sen. Obama on Beijing Olympics television ads. McCain's last-minute buy involves \$6 million worth of ads, while Obama reportedly purchased a \$5 million campaign.

[EMBED]

Barack discusses his New Energy for America plan in Youngstown, Ohio.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-08-05 12:28:00)

All of Mr. Obama's energy proposals (with the exception of conservation measures) will INCREASE the cost of energy. Cap and Trade is a massive tax increase in disguise – and any time you tax something you increase its cost. Increasing taxes on the oil companies (who already pay about 50 % of their profits to the government) will further increase the cost of oil and the cost of gas at the pump. Failure to develop our MASSIVE domestic energy reserves (oil, natural gas, and coal) will increase the cost of fossil fuels and increase our dependence on foreign sources for energy. The purchase price of alternative energy vehicles (including hybrids) is so much higher than their standard gasoline alternatives that they never result in net savings over the life of the vehicle.

Video: Offices open in Colorado (2008-08-05 13:42)

Here's video of field office openings in Colorado.

[EMBED]

Barack has 20 offices throughout Colorado, one of states considered a major battleground for the general election. According to John Kerry, this was one of three states that Obama wished for on his birthday yesterday.

Democrats will hold their convention in Denver and that should help give Obama a boost in the state.

[EMBED]

Check out the pictures of birthday celebrations held for Barack throughout the country yesterday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Molten Core of Barack: Why Obama Can't Win (2008-08-05 16:47)

Alex, John McCain has been spending more, a lot more, on television ads to get his poll numbers up.

He was trailing badly especially in the state-by-state electoral count and was probably getting pressure from party leaders to recuperate his standings. So they've been outspending the Obama campaign by about 3 to 1 running mostly negative ads to artificially inflate his poll numbers.

The Obama campaign is looking good so they've been spending their money and time more on building up their ground campaign for a 50 state strategy. They are conserving money now with the exception of the big Olympics tv ad campaign.

Still, even with all the media efforts of McCain and the Republican National Committee (RNC), Obama still looks much better right now in the electoral vote polls.

Check out the RealClearPolitics site.

<http://realclearpolitics/polls>

When it comes time to close the show a few weeks before the election, I believe you will see the Obama campaign open up the purse strings because that's when many people really start paying attention and deciding on who to vote for.

About Barack Obama

Read the Article at HuffingtonPost

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More Obama News from Monday (2008-08-05 20:28)

Academy Award winning actor George Clooney is organizing a big fundraiser for Barack Obama in Switzerland on Sept. 2.

There will be a reception with tickets at \$1,000 followed by a dinner at the house of NFC member Charles Adams for guests who raised at least \$10,000 from multiple sources.

Why the event is taking place overseas is not explained, but the campaign states that only U.S. citizens with passports will be allowed to donate.

Tire pressure claim correct

Barack's claims on oil savings from simply keeping your tires properly inflated and getting regular tuneups is correct. The savings in fact, if practiced widely, could easily exceed the amount of oil obtained from any new offshore drilling. McCain had mocked Obama's suggestions pointing instead to his plan to expand offshore drilling.

Also, it has been widely reported that Barack now supports some offshore drilling himself. Haven't seen the evidence though. He has said that he might consider some new drilling as part of a compromise plan were the good gained would offset the negatives of new drilling.

Barack in Ohio

In the following video, Barack talks in Ohio about his new energy plan and other economic matters. He notes that during the last eight years it has been the wealthy, the oil companies, the big contractors and lobbys who have gained, while the American people have suffered. He promises to shift the emphasis back to the people.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



gate (2008-08-07 08:03:00)

I thought you might be interested in this:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=110277515563>

I'm trying to turn the tables on the McCain folks and their stupid tire gauge stunt. I'm having gauges made and selling them on eBay in hopes of raising \$2300 for Obama (the max contribution). If you are down, can you please forward this on to other like minded folks. Thanks!

LIVE: Barack Obama at Town Hall in Elkhart, Indiana (2008-08-06 08:02)

Watch Sen. Barack Obama speak live at Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana.

Senator Barack Obama

in Elkhart, IN

Watch Now

Right now, Barack is talking about using executive order to make the federal government, the largest user of energy in the world, more energy-efficient.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-08-06 08:23:00)

Paris Hilton Spoof Shirt available @ <http://www.uneekgeek.etsy.com>

Get yours with Obama on the back!

Visit the blog at <http://www.uneek-geek.com/blog>

Barack and Family heading for 'Da Kine' Vacation (2008-08-06 14:44)

Barack Obama , his wife and two daughters are heading for a week-long vacation in Hawai'i, the first real time off since starting the campaign in Feb. 2007.

The family leaves on Friday and that leaves open the question as to whether the Illinois senator will, according to conventional wisdom, announce his VP pick before the Olympic opening ceremonies.

Some suspected that such an event would happen today as Obama campaigned in Indiana with Sen. Evan Bayh, but

that doesn't look like it's going to happen.

Obama for America has displayed quite dramatically that there are no ship-sinking loose lips aboard. Nobody seems to have a clue as to who or when regarding the VP pick. There have been rumors of course, but these seem to change randomly.

Hillary Clinton will be campaigning for Barack on Friday in Henderson, Nevada, but again that's when the family should be leaving for Hawai'i.

That leaves tomorrow, Thursday, as the last chance for an announcement before opening ceremonies on Friday.

The only thing I can see in the news wires is that Hillary will be having a web chat early on Thursday at 9 am PDT. Now, that's awful early for New York or Washington DC, so I have to wonder if she will be on the West Coast at the time of the web chat.

Of course, the West Coast would also be a good spot for a Hawai'i departure flight!

But then again, who knows? I can't figure out where Obama will be on Thursday.

[EMBED]

Barack Obama in Elkhart, Indiana.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Baracking down the Issues (2008-08-07 09:04)

At Barack Obama's scribd.com site, you can find iPapers covering a wide selection to topics.

There are 34 documents uploaded so far including the recent plan for military families and Barack's New Energy for America proposal. If you have a blog or website, you can embed these papers using the provided code. Click on "iPaper," then select "Embed Codes."

Here is Barack's plan for military families in Virginia.

Barack Obama's Plan To Support Virginia Military Families - Upload a Document to Scribd

Read this document on Scribd: Barack Obama's Plan To Support Virginia Military Families

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama to appear at Keahi Lagoon Beach Park (2008-08-07 21:59)

Barack Obama's vacation will not only be fun and relaxation.

In addition to a fundraiser, Obama is scheduled to appear at a free public rally at Keahi Lagoon Beach Park in Honolulu.

Obama has not been back to Hawai'i, where he spent most of his childhood, since 2006 when he was still pondering over whether to run for president.

"I'm going to see my grandma who I've haven't seen in almost 18-19 months and who's getting to the age where I want to make sure I spend time with her on a consistent basis and so she can see her great-grandchildren," Obama said about his Hawaiian trip.

It's not looking much like he or his opponent John McCain will announce their VP picks before the Olympic Games

being as many had once expected. Although it's still possible to hold a press conference sometime early tomorrow. Check out this story on how island life in Hawai'i shaped the presumptive Democratic nominee.

"Hawaii's spirit of tolerance might not have been perfect or complete. But it was — and is — real," Obama wrote in a 1999 essay for the Punahou alumni magazine. "The opportunity that Hawaii offered — to experience a variety of cultures in a climate of mutual respect — became an integral part of my world view, and a basis for the values that I hold most dear."

And here's a story on Obama's grandmother who broke many barriers of her own allowing the family to send Barack to the elite Punahou School.



Disco generation Barack "Barry" Obama, second row right, in a 1978 senior yearbook photo at the Punahou School, the prestigious private academy in Honolulu, Hawaii. Punahou Schools / AP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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"Hands" to get the job done (2008-08-08 11:18)

The Obama campaign will air a new television ad called "Hands" that highlights Barack's New Energy for America plan. The spot talks about investing in renewable energy like wind and solar, and developing more fuel-efficient cars. The plan will generate millions of new, high-paying jobs.

Hands starts on Saturday and will run through the Olympics in all 50 states.

[EMBED]

In other news, Barack revealed in an interview with Entertainment Weekly, that his favorite superheroes at a younger age were Spiderman and Batman. "I was always into the Spider-Man/Batman model. The guys who have too many powers, like Superman, that always made me think they weren't really earning their superhero status. It's a little too easy. Whereas Spider-Man and Batman, they have some inner turmoil. They get knocked around a little bit."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Vacations are Good (2008-08-09 08:29)

Hula dancers from the Japanese city of Obama known as the "Obama Girls" traveled to Hawai'i to show their support for the islands' native son.

[EMBED]

Barack told a crowd of 4,000 in Honolulu he would be having a plate lunch, some shave ice and would be spending time on the beach with his family body-surfing and swimming. His main reason for visiting though is to visit his aged grandmother. He will also be visiting the family of his sister Maya Soetoro-Ng. Here's some video from Honolulu's KGMB News:

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



David Miller (2008-08-09 10:48:00)

I wish Barack well, and love to see all the support he is getting!

TV Ad: Celebrity and Bear Hugs (2008-08-11 07:56)

Obama for America released today the television ad "Embrace" that gives a humorous response to McCain's "celebrity" ads.

The ad features a number of McCain-Bush bear hugs, hence the title, and suggests that McCain is the greatest celebrity in Washington here he has been a favorite of special interest lobbies.

[EMBED] e

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gov. Mark Warner to deliver Convention Keynote Address (2008-08-13 10:04)

Some possible insight today in the choice of former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner to deliver the keynote address on Aug. 26 at the Democratic Convention in Denver.

Virginia is one of the main battleground states, where both candidates have been battling in the polls. There are about 11 other states that are viewed as "toss-ups" at the current time.

Here is the campaign statement released today.

MARK WARNER TO DELIVER CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON TUESDAY, AUG. 26th

CHICAGO - The Obama for America campaign announced today that former Virginia Governor Mark Warner will deliver the keynote address at the 2008 Democratic Convention on Tuesday, August 26th, the second night of the Convention.

An innovative businessman known for his ability to work with Republicans, Democrats and Independents, campaign officials said that Warner's vision for Virginia and his leadership style echoed the Convention's theme of Americans coming together for change.

"Barack Obama believes you can't have a strong economy when you have a weak middle class," said Obama Campaign Manager David Plouffe. "Millions of Americans are struggling to get by, forced to make impossible choices about their future and the future of their families. Tuesday's Convention program will feature the voices of Americans who share Obama's concerns and strongly support his detailed economic plan to grow the economy, create jobs, restore fairness, and expand opportunity. As Governor of Virginia, Warner used his experience in business to help deliver jobs and hope to the citizens of Virginia. His work creating jobs in Southwest and Southside Virginia is a model for the rest of the Country. Like Barack Obama, Mark Warner is not afraid to challenge the status quo to bring people together and get things moving. It's that kind of spirit and innovation that resulted in his selection as keynote speaker on a night when we will be discussing how to renew America's promise."

Warner, a candidate for the United States Senate in Virginia, will speak on Tuesday night of the Democratic Convention. The theme of Tuesday's night program at the Convention is Renewing America's Promise.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama responds to Inflation News (2008-08-14 09:35)

Sen. Barack Obama today released a statement on the new government report on skyrocketing inflation.

Inflation is usually associated with an "overheated" economy i.e., one that is growing too rapidly. Even in the case of an expanding economy, inflation can be problematic.

However, most indications show that the economy now is contracting, or at least it is slowing down dramatically. So we have the compounded problem of a weak economy and rising gas and food prices.

The Bush debt spending strategy is not working.

Barack has a long-term solution that includes increasing energy independence and investing in green technology that will create millions of new jobs.

However, to relieve those who are getting hit the hardest by soaring inflation, Barack also has a short-term assistance program that will provide, for example, an immediate \$1,000 energy rebate.

Here's the statement released this morning.

Today, we got the truly shocking news that inflation hit a 17-year high of 5.6 percent as the prices of gas and groceries continued to soar. Families have now lost an entire decade's worth of raises to inflation as weekly earnings adjusted for inflation lie below the level they reached in August 1998. While Senator McCain apparently thinks the economy is doing just fine, and refuses to support any meaningful, short-term relief for America's struggling families, Barack Obama has proposed an Emergency Economic Plan that would immediately put \$1,000 in the pocket of families to help them pay for gasoline, groceries and other necessities. In addition, the Obama plan includes \$50 billion in immediate measures to save more than one million

jobs from being lost. America cannot afford four more years of a policy that puts tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations ahead of the real change America's middle-class families need.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Dan Cheek (2008-08-14 11:55:00)

McCain's statement on the economic inflation:

"Everything is fine. Or not. I don't really know what inflation means, anyway. I was in a war! 9/11!"

-Dan Cheek

Video: Barack II (2008-08-14 16:13)

Ok, you've waited patiently and now it's finally arrived – Barack II!

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Surf's Up (2008-08-15 17:37)

Photos of possibly America's first body-surfing president.

X

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., body surfs at Sandy Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008. Sen. Obama is in Hawaii for a vacation. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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What Polls don't show (2008-08-16 07:28)

When you read about polling data this early in the race, it's good to keep in mind one thing.

All polling groups survey only people they think of as likely to vote, or as already registered to vote. In most cases, they select names of folk who have voted in the last election or in the last two elections.

So, if a campaign is doing a good job at registering new voters and activating registered people who haven't voted lately, the pollsters will often miss these folk. George W. Bush, for all his faults, managed to really turn voters out on

election day in 2004 resulting in a surprisingly strong victory.

Tracking polls especially survey a small group of likely voters over and over again to see how their opinions of the candidates change. To some extent they are more or less a referendum among that group of people based on the latest news coverage. However, they do not really account for changes in voter demographics.

So the final outcome depends a great deal on activity going on behind the scenes as both campaigns attempt to register and enlist new voters, and on election day make sure all their supporters go to vote.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-08-18 22:32:00)

President of the United States should be held to a higher standard!

I dropped out of high school (10th Grade) To join the United States army. I scored so high on my entrance exam that I was given a choice as to what (MOS) Job I wanted in the Army.

I chose The Nike Hercules Missile system as a crewman and nuclear weapon specialist for surface to air missiles. After successful boot camp I went into my Advanced Individual Training school. (AIT) The time was January of 1976 The school was in Fort Bliss Texas. When it came time to move into a Top Secret classroom environment, I was the last person given a Top Secret clearance and had to sweat making it into the class.

The reason and the point I am making was that the United states government had to send government officials in to my old neighborhood in Anchorage Alaska, where I had lived and talk to many of my neighbors and friends to determine if I had Ever used drugs or alcohol and to determine my character. I later found out that there were two individuals that knocked on residence doors and asked specifically about Marijuana use and other drugs.

During my work with nuclear weapons (I was 17 years old) I was continually in front of the Battery Commander and asked specific questions regarding drug use and or Past or present Alcohol abuse. If a person in my unit were even suspected of past or present use of drugs regardless of when it occurred he or she would not be permitted to work with or around Nuclear weapons.

The army regulation is AR50-5.

My question is how in the world can a commander in chief (The President of the United States) Admit to past drug use and be allowed the entire nuclear arsenal that the Military commands at his disposal.

As a footnote: In my Barracks were the photos on the wall of the chain of command. Starting with my 1st sergeant and going to the commander in chief. (The president) This is still in every Barracks in the Military!

If I would have been denied my clearance, and at the top of the chain of command was a person who admitted to drug use, How would I have felt. Better yet, how does the commander in chief circumvent this military law? Even if he is a civilian commander of the Armed forces how can you be allowed to control this nuclear arsenal after admitting to past drug use when no military personnel would even be allowed to get near one?

Obama raises \$51 million (2008-08-16 10:15)

Obama for America announced today that it had raised a cool \$51 million in July far outstripping opponent John McCain's \$27 million for the same period.

The Obama campaign has \$65.8 million cash on hand for the start of August, while the Democratic National Committee has \$28.5 million available for a total of \$94.3 million.

McCain and the RNC had \$96 million cash on hand for August mainly due to the RNC's superior stockpile at the end of the primary season. However, in July the DNC raised \$27.7 million compared to nearly \$26 million for the RNC.

Some of the cash on hand must be spent before the party convention of the respective candidate.

More than 65,000 New Donors Contributed to the Obama Campaign in July, Bringing July Total to Over \$51 Million

Obama campaign has \$65.8 million on hand

CHICAGO – Senator Barack Obama’s campaign announced today that more than 65,000 new donors contributed to the Obama campaign during the month of July, bringing the total raised for the month to over \$51 million. More than 2 million people have now contributed to the campaign.

“The 65,000 new donors to the Obama campaign demonstrate just how strongly the American people are looking to fundamentally change business as usual in Washington. We are proud of the millions of volunteers and more than two million donors to the Obama campaign who will provide the backbone of our campaign to put America back on track and reject the old politics and failed Bush policies, which is all John McCain is offering,” said David Plouffe, campaign manager of Obama for America.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Donors vs. Dollars (2008-08-17 08:49)

Barack Obama outperformed John McCain in fundraising last month, but more important in my view is the number of contributors that donated to his campaign.

Overall, Obama has 2 million contributors compared to John McCain’s 600,000. And polls indicate Obama’s supporters are much more enthusiastic than McCain’s. That will likely translate to more people volunteering for Obama and more people enthusiastically talking him up to family and friends.

Social networkers know that its those best endorsements comes from someone in one’s own network of trusted family, friends and colleagues. A recommendation from the latter is usually more effective than one from a stranger knocking at one’s door or calling on the phone. Television ads usually work best with those who have not been getting sufficient input from their real life networks.

The large base of supporters also bodes well when looked at purely from the money standpoint. Many of Obama’s donors give small amounts and thus are unlikely to reach legal contribution limits. Wealthy donors tend to give the maximum amount in one shot during big fundraising parties were they have an opportunity to meet the candidate personally. Obama can look forward to repeated donations from his mass of middle class and lower income contributors.

[EMBED]

Camp Obama in Austin, Texas.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack visits Reno (2008-08-17 17:28)

Sen. Barack Obama returned to the campaign trail today speaking at Earl Wooster High School in Reno, Nevada. Among the subjects Barack discussed was the housing crisis, which has hit Nevada particularly hard.

Here is a video of Barack's opening remarks.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-09-20 06:22:00)

Would the AIG bailout save Wall Street and the financial markets? I don't know. I do believe the cost of this bailout will be born mainly by the middle class. Is there another way to save the markets without harm to the middle class? Are there not other companies in similar straights? Isn't it the declining housing market that has lead to the recent bank failures? Will this help eliminate the record number of foreclosures? Is this actually the best way to improve the economy? Could this \$85,000,000,000 be better spent?

What if instead, Congress immediately passed legislation to provide help to people who actually pay the mortgages? Wouldn't this create not just incentive to pay the mortgages, but also increase the ability to make the payment? I would like to see Congress consider an immediate (retroactive to the beginning of this year) bill to make the first \$2000 payment per month of a primary residence mortgage 100 % deductible for individuals or couples with an income limit for eligibility. This does not affect in any way the other mortgage related deductions, such as interest payment.

The amount of Adjusted Gross Income and the deduction could be similar to:

Single Married Monthly mortgage limit

<35,000 <70,000 \$2000

<40,000 <80,000 \$1750

<45,000 <90,000 \$1500

...

>or = 85,000 >Or = \$170,000 \$0

However, I am less concerned with the actual income limits than with a move to drive the economy by empowering the middle class. If all these \$24000 annual reductions of taxable income are assumed to be in the 25 % tax bracket, then this becomes a \$6,000 tax saving per individual or couple. For the same number as proposed for AIG - \$85,000,000,000 divided by 6000 means this can be used by over 14 million tax payers before it costs more. Considering Fannie, Freddie, the banks and other institutions, this is much less expensive.

Can't we address the problem? People cannot afford their mortgages, demand for and values of houses are declining. Instead the current proposal addresses the symptom, which is companies who bought mortgage based securities are going broke. Solve the problem and the symptoms disappear. The assets of the companies recover, crisis averted.

Tom Strickland

Avoiding the "Toughness" Lure (2008-08-18 12:13)

We've seen it happen before. It's a common Republican tactic. Focus on issue around security, war, terrorism and the like and lure the ever-willing Democrat into your territory.

Lately though the model hasn't worked that well. At least not in the more regional races. Republican incumbents have been defeated recently in strongholds where Democrats could not have imagined winning just several years ago. However, it is still a question as whether this strategy will or will not work on a national level. After all, the president is commander in chief. Maybe it's just the fact that the Democrats have a tendency of letting themselves be lured into these traps that is perceived as a weakness.

John McCain is noticeably stepping up talk about his Vietnam war experiences and I expect that he and the RNC will keep "toughness" and "tough guy" issues as the theme of the election, trying to keep the economy and other matters off the table.

What are the predictable responses to the Republican moves? Select a tough 'good ol' boy' VP running mate, appear often in public with military flag officers, hold more security forums; basically do everything to help the Republicans

turn the election into what will simply be a referendum on who is the more conservative candidate. Guess who would win that kind of race!

[EMBED]

Barack in Reno

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack on Working Women in Albuquerque (2008-08-18 17:19)

Sen. Barack Obama today held a round table talk at the City Government Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Speaking on the subject of working women, Barack recalled how his own late mother had to work while attending school when he was a child. At certain times, the family needed food stamps to put enough on the table. Barack promised to fight for pay equity for single working mothers, like his own mother. Currently women make only 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes for the same work.

Here is part of what Barack discussed at the round table.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



VP choice expected this week (2008-08-19 11:54)

The media is reporting that Barack Obama will announce his choice for vice presidential running mate at the end of this week possibly as early as Wednesday. However, the media got it wrong when they thought the candidates would announce before the start of the Olympics.

This time though there are reports that Obama staffers at the Chicago headquarters have been hastily preparing to transition in the Obama's pick.

Speculation, of course, is running wild with most commentators placing their bets on Joe Biden, Evan Bayh, Bill Richardson or Kathleen Sebelius. I still think that Hillary is a slight favorite, but her husband Bill might have hurt her chances. Barack's weakness has been with the more strident Hillary supporters. By choosing her, it's hard to imagine they could still oppose the Illinois senator.

Most people think that John McCain will wait until after the Democratic Convention to announce his choice in an attempt to upstage any "bounce" that Barack might gain from all the attention.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Veepstakes: What Happened To Sebelius? (2008-08-19 15:23)



There's some chatter on the net that Obama for America bought the site obamasebelius.com and take that as indication that Sebelius will be the pick. They based their views on the fact that this site has the same domain name company and name server as barackobama.com, Sen. Obama's official primary site. However, I've found a few other Obama-Clinton sites and an Obama-Biden site with the same setup.

About Kathleen Sebelius

[Read the Article at HuffingtonPost](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Caroline Kennedy for VP? (2008-08-20 11:12)

There's a lot of buzz out there that Caroline Kennedy may be a surprise pick for Sen. Barack Obama's vice presidential running mate.

An Obama staffer said that Obama has already made his pick and it was going to be a big surprise. None of the people generally under consideration.

Will update soon.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-08-20 15:25:00)

I am really struggling with a decision on this campaign. I would definitely voted for Mrs. Clinton. I really do not want to vote for Obama. I have decided that if he picks Senator Clinton as his running mate I would still vote for him. I will not vote for him if he does not pick her.

Three Times: Barack's Tax Cuts for the Middle Class (2008-08-20 15:29)

Obama for America announced today that it is releasing a new 30 second television highlighting Barack's tax plan. Unlike Sen. McCain whose plan gives the greatest share of tax cuts to big corporations, Sen. Obama's proposal will give middle class families three times the McCain tax cuts. Hence the TV ad is named "Three Times."

About 100 million Americans will receive no relief at all from McCain's tax proposal. Three Times will air in Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Virginia beginning today.

You can watch the ad below, provided by Barack's official YouTube site.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Barack with Mark Warner in Virginia (2008-08-20 22:48)

Barack Obama appeared in Virginia today together with former Virginia Governor Mark Warner.

[EMBED]

On Saturday, Barack will hold a rally in Illinois at the same location that he announced his candidacy in 2007. It appears that reliable campaign sources have stated that Obama's vice president pick will also be present there with the presumptive Democratic nominee.

Still, no reliable leaks on when Obama's choice will be announced or who the lucky winner is.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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McCain's Housing Crisis: Losing Track of Dream Homes (2008-08-21 12:37)

John McCain thinks the Bush economy is just fine, and vows to follow the same track. Not surprising given the fact that he owns seven homes worth \$13 million averaging out to about \$1.85 million each.

Many Americans though have had their homes foreclosed due to the mortgage meltdown. McCain said that he had lost track of how many homes he owned when questioned by reporters today.

Indeed, McCain probably wants to avoid the mortgage crisis altogether as it might bring back memories of his days as one of the "Keating Five" when he was censured for exercising "poor judgment" during that savings and loan crisis.

The Obama campaign released a rapid response TV ad on McCain's response.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-08-22 07:44:00)

So Obama camp - where is the "change" all I see is the same old mud slinging and promises to do it better. Give me a break!

Andrew Peace (2008-08-28 09:11:00)

I noticed you don't post sources or references. Let me correct your inaccuracies:

"John McCain thinks the Bush economy is just fine, and vows to follow the same track."

No. He said that it was "fundamentally strong", which it is. Go to Google Finance and look at a graph of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. At the end of the Clinton Administration, it skyrocketed, and has continued to be strong. Also, unemployment has been lower under Bush. Go ahead and download the PDF from the census bureau.

Also, John McCain owns zero homes. His wife and family own a total of eight.

On my blog, I refute this argument. And I use sources.

Obama is just as out of touch as McCain

That said, I love what you are doing here. You are speaking out in favor of Obama and trying to educate. Keep it up! Try to convince your audience by using sources. I love to see both sides in an equal battle.

We should blog-debate sometime :D

Peace out!

Anonymous (2008-11-02 08:51:00)

The economy is not Bush's fault,/remember Sept 11/ it's an international problem. As far as the Dow Jones, thats simply a market correction. If Obama becomes Pres. expect higher taxes, a weakening of our military, and an economy that spins farther out of control. GOD HELP US ALL!

Emmy Herrebrugh (2008-11-02 18:38:00)

Obama's polls are strong. His voter turnout is weak. McCain can win if we ALL GO OUT AND VOTE FOR HIM! Don't just cheer him on from the couch, but VOTE! We CANNOT let Obama ruin this great nation during this already troublesome time! McCain '08! PLEASE PLEASE GOP SUPPORTERS...Don't forget to VOTE!!!

Video Roundup on Thursday (2008-08-21 18:29)

Latinos for Obama meeting in Aurora, Colorado with former Secretary of Energy

[EMBED]

Barack talks in Chester, Virginia on Aug. 21 about John McCain's views on the economy.

[EMBED]

McCain has said that a "rich person" would make about \$5 million a year, possibly people owning seven houses like himself. No wonder he thinks the 'economic fundamentals' under the Bush administration are "strong."

For ordinary one-house people, the economy may not be so great.

The new TV ad "Backyard" exposes John McCain's support for the Yucca nuclear dump site in Nevada, while opposing nuclear waste in his own home state of Arizona.

[EMBED]

In other news, it has been reported (let's see) that Barack will announce his VP pick by text message some time tomorrow.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Madoca/Brasil (2008-11-05 10:25:00)

Sir Obama presidente! Parabéns! Muitas, muitas e muitas felicidades!

(2008-08-21 18:29)

Latinos for Obama meeting in Aurora, Colorado with former Secretary of Energy

Houses (2008-08-22 11:27)

Philadelphia residents talk about the McCain housing dilemma i.e., what to do when you have so many houses you can't keep track of them all.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



chris (2008-10-03 00:09:00)

vote obama www.sevenquest.info

Joe (2008-10-28 11:26:00)

I really think Obama is the right fit at this time of crisis. John McCain is hugging the corporate world, because they will be giving him multi-million dollar on top of the billion dollars he has.

Vote Obama Obama 08

Scoping Ohio (and Indiana) (2008-08-22 13:21)

Since I made my last analysis of battleground states, it still looks like Ohio is the most important of these targets. And a new state can be added to the list – Indiana.

Indiana is sandwiched between Ohio and Obama's home state of Illinois, and it would be relatively easy to reach both Ohio and Indiana from the main campaign headquarters.

The race in Ohio still looks very tight and I think the campaign has a better chance there than in Florida, although that could change. The Democratic governor in Ohio compared to Florida's Republican governor is very helpful. Both states had some significant voting irregularities in the last two presidential elections.

Ohio is close enough to Illinois for road trips by dedicated Obama volunteers as well as paid staff.

Northwest Indiana is part of the Chicago Metropolitan Area. People regularly commute between both places especially from Indiana into Chicago for work. Given that Obama's ground support is likely strongest in his home state of Illinois, it is very practical to spill over into Indiana and make a run at this usually Republican-leaning state.

In both states, Obama will have to reach out to very similar populations consisting of working class people who have been hit hard by recent economic woes. Evan Bayh is a good possible VP choice for targeting Indiana, while Gov. Ted Strickland would be logical for Ohio. Hillary Clinton and her husband are very popular with the swing voting segment in these states.



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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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NBC: Bayh, Kaine not chosen for VP (2008-08-22 17:36)

According to NBC News, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine have been told they were not selected as Barack Obama's vice presidential running mate.

Now it seems unlikely that they would announce the selection this late and some news agencies are saying that the announcement is scheduled for early tomorrow morning. There have been complaints though that all this suspense building is taking away from focusing on important campaign issues.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2008-08-29 19:30:00)

McCain is too old and his opponent is too young. Check out mccain72.blogspot.com and discuss!

Anonymous (2008-09-13 01:49:00)

There's nothing wrong in fighting against predatory lenders, in fact it's good. I commend him for his future plan. But Obama should take into consideration the acts of lending industries before taking the necessary action. Not all lending industries are predatory or steals money from working people. He should study first the case of these industries before giving the act.

Post Courtesy of Personal Money Store

Professional Blogging Team

Feed Back: 1-866-641-3406

Home: <http://personalmoneystore.com/NoFaxPaydayLoans.html>

Blog: <http://personalmoneystore.com/moneyblog/>

Anonymous (2008-09-23 19:47:00)

I love this shirt:

http://www.cafepress.com/McNastyDawg_03.309549669

Nadia Ali (2008-10-14 04:13:00)

If obama work for peace then i vote it. otehr wise...NO

Anonymous (2008-10-21 20:24:00)

I have a website here that really is great!

<http://www.theSmallCapAlert.com> - It's a Blog about investing that speaks to you in plain english, but also, they have a newsletter that they send out with Market updates, company profiles and other ideas surrounding the Stock Market.

Anonymous (2008-10-22 14:00:00)

Berg stated that he filed Requests for Admissions on September 15, 2008 with a response by way of answer or objection had to be served within thirty [30] days. No response to the Requests for Admissions was served by way of response or objection. Thus, all of the Admissions directed to Obama and the DNC are deemed "ADMITTED." Therefore, Obama must immediately withdraw his candidacy for President.

OBAMA - Admitted:

1. I was born in Kenya.
2. I am a Kenya "natural born" citizen.
3. My foreign birth was registered in the State of Hawaii.
4. My father, Barrack Hussein Obama, Sr. admitted Paternity of me.
5. My mother gave birth to me in Mombosa, Kenya.
6. My mother's maiden name is Stanley Ann Dunham a/k/a Ann Dunham.
7. The COLB [Certification of Live Birth] posted on the website "Fightthesmears.com" is a forgery.
8. I was adopted by a Foreign Citizen.
9. I was adopted by Lolo Soetoro, M.A. a citizen of Indonesia.
10. I was not born in Hawaii.
11. I was not born at the Queens Medical Center in Hawaii.
12. I was not born at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children in Hawaii.
13. I was not born in a Hospital in Hawaii.
14. I am a citizen of Indonesia.
15. I never took the "Oath of Allegiance" to regain my U.S. Citizenship status.
16. I am not a "natural born" United States citizen.
17. My date of birth is August 4, 1961.
18. I traveled to Pakistan in 1981 with my Pakistan friends.
19. In 1981, I went to Indonesia on my way to Pakistan.
20. Pakistan was a no travel zone in 1981 for American Citizens.
21. In 1981, Pakistan was not allowing American Citizens to enter their country.
22. I traveled on my Indonesian Passport to Pakistan.
23. I renewed my Indonesian Passport on my way to Pakistan.
24. My senior campaign staff is aware I am not a "natural born" United States Citizen.
25. I am proud of my Kenya Heritage.
26. My relatives have requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my first name.
27. My relatives have requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my last name.
28. My relatives have requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my place of birth.
29. I requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my first name.
30. I requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my last name.
31. I requested changes to the portion of my birth certificate that identifies my place of birth.
32. The document identified as my Indonesian School record from Fransiskus Assisi School in Jakarta, Indonesia is genuine.
33. I went to a Judge in Hawaii to have my name changed.
34. I went to a Senator and/or Congressman or other public official in Hawaii to have my name changed.
35. I had a passport issued to me from the Government of Indonesia.
36. The United States Constitution does not allow for a Person to hold the office of President of the United States unless that person is a "natural born" United States citizen.
37. I am ineligible pursuant to the United States Constitution to serve as President and/or Vice President of the United States.

38. I never renounced my citizenship as it relates to my citizenship to the country of Indonesia.
39. I never renounced my citizenship as it relates to my citizenship to the country of Kenya.
40. I am an Attorney who specializes in Constitutional Law.
41. Kenya was a part of the British Colonies at the time of my birth.
42. Kenya did not become its own Republic until 1963.
43. I am not a "Naturalized" United States Citizen.
44. I obtained \$200 Million dollars in campaign funds by fraudulent means.
45. I cannot produce a "vault" (original) long version of a birth certificate showing my birth in Hawaii.
46. My "vault" (original) long version birth certificate shows my birth in Kenya.
47. The only times I was to a Hospital in Hawaii was for check-ups or medical treatments for illnesses.
48. Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii does not have any record of my mother, Stanley Ann Dunham (Obama) giving birth to me.
49. Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu, Hawaii does not have any record of my mother, Stanley Ann Dunham (Obama) giving birth to me.
50. I was born in the Coast Province Hospital in Mombasa, Kenya.
51. I represented on my State Bar application in Illinois that I never used any other name other than Barack Hussein Obama.
52. I went by the name Barry Soetoro in Indonesia.
53. My Indonesian school records are under the name of Barry Soetoro.
54. I took an Oath to uphold the United States Constitution when admitted to the State Bar of Illinois to practice Law.
55. I took an Oath to uphold the United States Constitution when I was Sworn into my United States Senate Office.
56. I hold dual citizenship with at least one other Country besides the United States of America.

DNC - Admitted:

1. The DNC nominated Barrack Hussein Obama as the Democratic Nominee for President.
2. The DNC has not vetted Barrack Hussein Obama.
3. The DNC did not have a background check performed on Barrack Hussein Obama.
4. The DNC did not verify Barrack Hussein Obama's eligibility to serve as President of the United States.
5. The DNC admits Barrack Hussein Obama was born in Kenya.
6. The DNC admits Barrack Hussein Obama is not a "natural born" United States citizen.
7. The DNC admits Barrack Hussein Obama was not born in Hawaii.
8. The DNC admits they have not inquired into Barrack Hussein Obama's citizenship status.
9. The DNC admits they have a duty to properly vet the Democratic Nominee for President.
10. The DNC admits Lolo Soetoro, M.A., an Indonesian citizen adopted Barrack Hussein Obama.
11. The DNC admits the Credentials Committee has been aware of this lawsuit since August 22, 2008 as the lawsuit was faxed to our Washington D.C. Office on August 22, 2008.
12. The DNC admits their Credentials Committee failed to verify and/or inquire into the credentials of Barack Hussein Obama to serve as the President of the United States.
13. The DNC admits their Credential Committee's Report failed to address the issues of Barack Hussein Obama's ineligibility to serve as President of the United States.
14. The DNC admits Howard Dean, Chair Person has and had knowledge Barack Hussein Obama was born in Kenya and ineligible to serve as the President of the United States.
15. The DNC admits Plaintiff and all Democratic citizens of the United States have been personally injured as a result of not having a qualified Democratic Presidential Nominee to cast their votes upon.
16. The DNC admits Plaintiff and all citizens of the United States have a Constitutional Right to vote for the President of the United States and to have two (2) qualified candidates of which to choose from.
17. The DNC admits Plaintiff and all citizens of the United States have a Constitutional right to have a properly vetted Democratic Presidential Nominee of which to cast their vote.
18. The DNC admits an FBI background check is not performed on the Presidential or Vice Presidential Candidates.
19. The DNC admits the United States Constitution does not allow for a Person to hold the office of President of the United States unless that person is a "natural born" United States citizen.
20. The DNC admits they collected donations on behalf of Barack Hussein Obama for his Presidential campaign.

21. The DNC admits Plaintiff and Democratic citizens donated money based on false representations that Barack Hussein Obama was qualified to serve as the President of the United States.
22. The DNC admits if Barack Hussein Obama is elected as President and allowed to serve as President of the United States in violation of our Constitution, it will create a Constitutional crisis.
23. The DNC admits Barack Hussein Obama took an Oath to uphold the United States Constitution.
24. The DNC admits allowing a person who is not a "natural born" citizen to serve as President of the United States violates Plaintiff's rights to due process of law in violation of the United States Constitution.
25. The DNC admits allowing a person who is not a "natural born" citizen to serve as President of the United States violates Plaintiff's rights to Equal Protection of the laws in violation of the United States Constitution.
26. The DNC admits the function of the DNC is to secure a Democratic Presidential Candidate who will protect Democratic citizen's interests, fight for their equal opportunities and fight for justice for all Americans.
27. The DNC admits the Democratic National Committee has been promoting Barack Hussein Obama's Presidential election knowing he was ineligible to serve as President of the United States.

Shelly (2008-10-26 12:02:00)

Obama is making promises that are nearly impossible to keep. Mc Cain is not to old he is experienced. Only today Obama is heading to California to seek the Latino vote. Maybe he should check to see how many of those Latinos are even able to vote. Our borders in California are weak and a large population of latinos are illegal and having children and "sucking off our system"..only one of many problems with this country. Obama wants to give give give...who is paying for all this "giving"..Our national budget is a joke, unemployment is at an all time high..basic like groceries and gas are rediculously high..His helath care plan is a joke..who is going to pay for it...He promies, promises promsies...you can't "write checks" if you have nothing in the bank..Obama appeals to the blue collar population..everyone wants "freebies" but who pays for them?...the people that educate themselves, work hard make over 250k per year and are taxed to support all these programs for people who have the same opportunity as anyone else. Nope! no Obama!..He scares the hell out of me!!

Press confirms Joe Biden as VP Pick (2008-08-22 21:58)

The Associated Press, CNN, MSNBC and Fox News are all confirming that Sen. Joe Biden will be Sen. Barack Obama's pick for VP running mate claiming unnamed Democratic sources. If true, this would preempt the text messaging surprise promised by the Obama campaign.

Secret Service have reportedly been dispatched to pick up Biden, but media coverage shows the house surrounded by reporters.

Biden is one of the most experienced senators with expertise in foreign policy.

More analysis later. However, we should note that no official announcement has been made yet.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-08-23 14:14:00)

This is very exciting news, and they are a real powerhouse team together. Looking for progress and change to follow!

Denise Michaels (2008-08-24 08:23:00)

If you're a Democrat you already know this election season is historic on many levels. What may not be clear to many Americans is that Hillary Clinton and her supporters have not gone away graciously or united the party even though Barack Obama clearly has more delegates and super delegates for the Democratic nomination when Clinton "suspended" her campaign June 3rd.

It may surprise you to learn Clinton supporters have mounted a nasty fight - complete with lies and manufactured conspiracy

theories to create havoc at the Democratic Convention which begins in Denver this Monday, August 25th. Clinton could've have told these supporters emphatically to get behind the candidacy of Obama - but she failed to do that - so great is her ambition to be President no matter what the American people say they want.

After fighting and pushing - as of Friday 8-22, both Senator Obama and Senator Clinton will be placed in nomination in Denver and a roll call vote will take place on the convention floor. Some Clinton supporters don't seem ready to deal with the fact that their candidate simply didn't get enough votes. So they fought on - putting the election of a Democrat in the White House at serious risk.

The Super Delegate vote at the convention and will choose who becomes the nominee of the Democratic Party. Super Delegates are mostly elected officials and party operatives obliged to consider the opinions of their constituents.

If you don't want the convention next week hijacked by the candidate who did not get the greatest number of votes and delegates tell them what you think and how to vote. They're supposed to vote in accordance with their constituents - so be sure to tell the delegates in your state.

Click on this link and let your Super Delegate hear from you. This spring's primaries were hard-fought to bring Barack Obama so far. We actually have to chance to have a president who will make positive changes in the way politics are played.

Here's the link.

<http://lobbydelegates.com/>

FineArtVideoBlog.com (2008-08-26 11:16:00)

Have you heard? BarackObiden.com

BarackObiden.com

Anonymous (2008-08-27 11:49:00)

Check out this cool T-Shirt with the CNN headline "Clinton: 'no way, no how, no McCain'":

http://www.cnn.com/tshirt/?hash=3be81bd0afb7a57e5adfc1722167927c&return_uri=http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/26/dnc.main/index.html

Chris Dailey (2008-08-27 12:29:00)

Please visit my blog if you are open to intelligent debate aimed at helping me understand the Obama phenomenon.

<http://chrisdailey.wordpress.com>

Disgruntled (2008-08-28 03:03:00)

I find this piece enlightening, informative and brave. I believe that people should take a look at this.

Top Three things to Know Before Voting OBAMA:

- (1) Obama needs to prove he is a US citizen - <http://tinyurl.com/Prove-UR-US-OK>
- (2) Obama is not an alternative to right wing McCain
- (3) Read the book "Obama the Postmodern Coup" to see he will support war and repressive social policies

bath (2008-08-29 23:41:00)

Fun page here around the theme of the presidential race in the USA

<http://www.wdbathrooms.co.uk/acatalog/Shower-or-Bath.html>

All Inclusive Family Vacations (2008-08-30 12:41:00)

Now that the cat is out of the bag. What does the American public have to look forward to. More money for the rich and who knows what for the poor.

Anonymous (2008-09-01 03:58:00)

Caught this GREAT song and video on youtube about "rocking the vote" and thought I would pass it on because it is what it seems to be going on in America right now.

Cool story...underdog musical artist sweeps nation with tune!!!

you should check it out at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBrKceZXoeE>

Its called ROCK THE VOTE by JK Citizen. This dude has it going on!!!

Anonymous (2008-09-02 10:53:00)

href="http://palinobama.blogspot.com/" target="_blank">PILF.vs.VPILF

Anonymous (2008-09-03 09:52:00)

who should i vote for obama or mccain obama seems cool but i know nothing about eaither canadet

A Bitter White Male (2008-09-04 15:25:00)

BITTER WHITE FOLKS FOR OBAMA: A NEW BLOG

My family were part of the 41 million who migrated from the Appalachian/Southern region to the Midwestern states in the postwar period: precisely the demographic from which support for Obama (and progressive politics as such) is supposed to be non-existent. But it was the economic policies of Reagan and the Clinton and Bush dynasties that produced such atrocities as the 2,200 square miles of strip-mining in Appalachia that have put thousands out of work, reduced the average income to the level of Mexico and forced migration to the North in search of jobs. So of course Appalachian and Midwestern communities are "bitter" - and it cannot be denied that more than a few have been mislead into believing that these elites somehow hear their voices. With the increasingly patronizing tone of the Republicans however, many are becoming unconvinced - at least Obama speaks about the situation as it really is: as he put it in that same speech, "you can go into the toughest neighborhoods, you know working-class lunch-pail folks, you'll find Obama enthusiasts. And you can go into places where you think I'd be very strong and people will just be skeptical".

bitterwhitefolksforobama.blogspot.com/

budwhite (2008-09-08 09:11:00)

Great e-mail regarding the smears:

Dear Friend:

I received your email with the attachment about Sarah Palin. While this report might be scary and threatening to some, to me it sounds like the same the kind of trash written about Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton and even Barack Obama. However, since the Clintons are no longer in the race we can leave them out. But what I wonder is why it's okay to say that Palin is a fundamentalist Christian but not okay to ask why Obama spent twenty years in the pews of Jeremiah Wright's intolerant church? And why is it okay to allege that Palin wants to destroy Alaska's wildlife but not okay to ask if Obama plans to support Hamas instead of Israel? And people can can accuse Palin of racism based on rumor and hearsay but not hold Obama accountable for playing the race card, quoting Malcolm X and accusing good people, particularly the Clintons, of racism. While I may not agree with Palin's politics, I am unmoved by the smear campaign launched against her. Please do not send me any more political emails. While this e-mail goes to great lengths to appear to be politically correct and to be doing me a favor, it's actually savaging someone's reputation based on shoddy evidence or outright lies. After forty years of voting for the Democratic candidate for president, I want you to know that these sexist and hateful lies against Sarah Palin you forwarded go against the reason I am a Democrat. Therefore, under no circumstance will I be voting for Obama.

Best Regards

tristanichabod (2008-09-09 09:48:00)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt58T4-lRvg> - check out

this video!! it's eye-opening

Anonymous (2008-09-09 13:16:00)

Obama turn up the heat even hotter on unknown pallin, Send her back to nowheresville crying, never to be heard from again.
Cassey frm PA

thepplway (2008-09-10 16:25:00)

beware the Republican may be use Osama's tape again

Thanks to visit my blog!

Anonymous (2008-09-11 04:58:00)

I sleep well knowing that, with Obama, our nation will make the changes necessary to improve quality of life for us all. And sleeping well begins with comfy pajamas - Ojamas.

nijd (2008-09-14 07:57:00)

I like OBAMA a lot even though I'm Asian but I'm extremely aware of US Elections. I'm looking forward to the winning of Sen. Obama. I hope you won't dislike Asian migrants.

I extremely dislike those who creates blooper videos of Obama, especially this one. <http://www.linkbucks.com/link/f5e56e82> which was uploaded on youtube. Please comment on this blooper video to show your support to Sen. Obama

Lion (2008-09-15 15:07:00)

any idea who's leading the popular vote at the moment?

LUCAS (2008-09-15 17:11:00)

show ur support..

who will win? LOVES OBAMA

<http://www.cafepress.com/myelection08>

JKEJ Mission Viejo (2008-09-15 22:51:00)

Check this out! www.yeswecanaroundtheworld.com! Obama gets support from a young french artist/entrepreneur who is "for hope and for change"! He has designed Obama t-shirts in different languages (Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi, Russian, Portuguese & more to come...I'm sure he'll take requests if you'll send him the translated phrase of the language of your choice!). You can order through cafepress.com & zazzle.com, check out his website! He's getting some good French press like ELLE magazine. Anyone knows how he might get some American press to pick him up?

Anonymous (2008-09-16 09:09:00)

Obama Lashes Out:

http://www.judiciaryreport.com/obama_lashes_out.htm

Anonymous (2008-09-17 09:53:00)

Visit <http://obama-4pres.blogspot.com/2008/09/obama.html> to see what Obama may look like after serving two terms as president. Real cool photo!

L2 (2008-09-21 11:39:00)

If anyone's interested in Obama gear, check out this Obama Fresh tee by Peoples Republic of Clothing:

www.prcclothing.bigcartel.com

It features an old school pic of Obama posing with his high school basketball team and comes in black or white in both men's and women's fits.

Bob Andersen (2008-09-23 21:51:00)

We must buy AIG 30 %

don't lend. Lending is the same

as Mom I need to pay the electric bill. 5 months later, the same thing....

BUY, the US needs to own it's own homes.

Ragerage (2008-09-26 12:05:00)
ROCK THEM 'BAMA!

Anonymous (2008-09-27 00:47:00)
Put lipstick on George W Bush & you get Sarah Palin. Obama represents change, McCain the same failed policies.

rinosip (2008-09-27 13:06:00)
Mc Cain puso énfasis en sus años de experiencia política versus la juventud de Obama. Lo importante sería saber que aprendió de bueno en esos años.
Napoleón decía que su caballo había participado en todos sus combates y sin embargo nunca aprendió nada de estrategia.

rinosip (2008-09-27 13:08:00)
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Napoleón decía que su caballo había participado en todos sus combates y sin embargo nunca aprendió nada de estrategia.

Neema (2008-09-29 13:07:00)
I recently saw this video called yes we can @ http://digg.com/politics/Nat_Wolff_and_Natasha_Bedingfield_Obama_Video_Yes_we_can
It was done by a two young brothers singing and it supports Barack Obama. It is an inspirational video that is truly perfect for Obama.

Hille (2008-09-29 15:46:00)
Post your Obama or McCain photos to www.mobypicture.com and add election in the title or subject.
All election postings are aggregated on <http://mobypicture.com/?election>.
You can also get the widget for your site!
Just use the contact form on www.mobypicture.com and we'll send you the script!

Ali (2008-09-29 20:28:00)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYdsU8996zo>

Why a vote for Obama is un-American:

1. Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness – Barack Obama supports abortions into the third month of development. Interesting how killing a three month old fetus is okay, but Sarah Palin shooting wolves (which by the way, is a way of life in Alaska) is viewed as evil. Tell the woman who cannot have children that the child moving in someone else's womb is not a living being.
2. Amendment #1 - Freedom of expression. How is it that Obama is idolized in the American media (he's a freaking lawyer people - they tell you what you want to hear), yet they unfairly attack McCain who has served our country with his own blood (after being tortured for five years) and serving in our senate since 1981. He has a record of crossing party lines and standing up to special interest groups. Yet, liberal media wingdings, like Whoopie Goldberg, can roll her eyes during an interview with McCain, while sipping tea and talking fashion with Michelle Obama. Doesn't everybody remember when Elisabeth Hasselbeck was grilled for exposing the fact that Michelle Obama would only answer questions she knew in advance. Why is it that the media didn't even question Whoopie's disrespect towards a guest? How about NOprah Winfrey??? I'm fine with the fact that she supports Obama. But when she says she will not use her show as a political platform, I expect her to keep her promises. Two weeks after the Sarah Palin debacle, where viewers questioned why she would not interview Palin, she invites Bill Clinton on her show? Isn't he like on tour right now preaching to the choir?...Then when questions emerge about a possible bailout for the financial markets, she invites "experts," who just happen to share Barack Obama's views. Hmmm....that doesn't sound right to me...stupid b. It's okay for Matt Damon to make fun of Palin, but heaven forbid someone pick on the black man. Just wait America, political correctness is going to take on a whole new meaning.
3. Amendment #2 – "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed. (Right to bear arms.)" According to the NRA, Obama would ban the use of firearms for

home defense (try taking away my guns Obama). He would also restore voting rights for five million criminals including those who have been convicted of using a gun to commit a violent crime. Check out nra.org.

4. Amendment #10 – “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.” (Limited Government). Our Founding Fathers knew the danger of big government. Under Obama, government will control more and more of our lives. His health care plan – put everyone under the same plan. Hmmm...how can one argue with free health care?? I support health care for every American citizen. But everyone, under the same plan??? What happens, heaven forbid, if your parent or loved one is in dire need of a heart transplant? Do we wait while partisan politics fight over who has first dibs on that new heart? Do we let the civil rights lawyer, Barack Obama, decide that the illegal immigrant should be covered under our system?? That my neighbor's life is more important than mine?? John McCain understands the Health Care crisis, but he also understands the value of the free market system. He would provide each taxpayer with a tax credit to find their own provider, based on his or her family's medical needs. America is about freedom of choice...I know where I want to go if I break my arm, deliver my first child, or send my family, should I have to make a medical decision for them. Do not tell me which hospital I am assigned to...and believe me, once government gets their hands on health care, it will be all tied up in red tape. Just look at what's happening to the proposed financial bailout. People's retirements are in limbo and partisan politics have blocked any sort of agreement. Where's the personal responsibility...for government, who actually caused this mess, for banks, who gave out risky loans, for the individual homeowner who took out a bigger mortgage than they could afford, for the civil rights lawyers, who demanded all people, regardless of race, color, etc. etc. should receive a mortgage, even if it was one they could never afford.

Pumpkins33d (2008-09-30 09:19:00)

I also saw the naked brothers band video it was amazing because it speaks for all those too young to speak, such as myself. I am ready for change and that video inspired me to believe that there is a way of change for this country.

Pumpkins33d

ps here's the link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mexxv9QbqN8>

Anonymous (2008-10-04 01:16:00)

Recently an insurance company nearly wind up....

A bank is nearly bankrupt.....

How it affect you? Did you buy insurance? Did you buy mini note or bonds?

They bailout trouble finance company, but they will not bail out your credit card bills.....You got no choice, but you can prevent similar things from happen again.....

Who fault?

The top management of the Public listed company (belong to "public") salary should be tied a portion of it to the shares price (IPO or ave 5 years).... so when the shares price drop, it don't just penalise the investors, but those who don't take care of the company.....If this rule is pass on, without any need of further regulation, all industries (as long as it is public listed) will be self regulated.....

Sign a petition to your favourite president candidate, congress member, House of representative again and ask for their views to comment on this, and what regulations they are going to raise for implementation.....If you agree on my point, please share with many people as possible....

<http://remindmyselfinstock.blogspot.com/>

Anonymous (2008-10-05 13:17:00)

I can't support Obama because he supports Shepard Fairey. A criminal who is one reason why the US spends over 10 billion per year on street clean nationwide. How can Obama praise an artist who puts stickers over stop signs risking the lives of citizens? Most people don't realize that the artist behind the HOPE poster is a criminal who has been arrested dozens of times for damaging public property. He was arrested after the Democrat convention this year for spray painting a wall. Not to the mention that he has stolen images from other artists.

Look it up. Know your facts. And ask why Obama would associate with Fairey.

M (2008-10-09 09:35:00)
www.helpobamasbrotha.com

Anonymous (2008-10-14 08:07:00)
I love this new Obama commercial
just saw it today
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utirJ1RHINs>
send it to friends it sends the point home - YOU WILL AGREE good going guys

Dan Rust (2008-10-14 10:49:00)
For one person's perspective on how you can make a decision to support Obama AND vote for John McCain, see the YouTube video below:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpsdKUQ1nKA>
Feel free to forward this to any "undecided" voters you know of. This will be a VERY close election and we need every single vote we can get. Demonizing Obama will get us a few votes (and also lose us at least a few votes) but I hope that a rational, positive thought process will persuade a few people who are still on the fence.
Regards, Dan

Anonymous (2008-10-17 03:03:00)
Hey, can you link my blog in your list.
<http://www.obamavideoblog.blogspot.com>
THANK YOU!

theplway (2008-10-17 07:35:00)
ok

FF (2008-10-20 07:32:00)
Now we just got to effectively fundraise!

Ojamas (2008-10-22 06:43:00)
Hey, Paul. It's been a while since you've posted anything. Hope all's well. Have you seen Obama pajamas? They're called Ojamas!

VA Loans (2008-10-22 13:49:00)
A little outdated. I guess that's okay though. I just wanted to say that with the market as it is, the only thing that i va loan work at is that obabma is purchase king. He needs to go to work. refinance

Anonymous (2008-10-22 18:21:00)
It's going to be a tough race. Hopefully Obama wins!!
http://www.pica7design.com/obama_shirt.html

Anonymous (2008-10-23 05:17:00)
The whole Obama/Biden Story compressed into a 2 minute music video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJOzGJpqZs>
All you need to know about American Politics 2008
Life Is Barack (And His Name Is Obama). Enjoy!

Elizabeth (2008-10-23 08:50:00)
I do not support Obama, because he does not meet the constitutional standard. He is not a natural born citizen. He offers a pretty, little story and refuses to refute these arguments in court. Don't vote for someone if you cannot answer this. Study the

facts. Heavy research will prove. Whether you vote for him or not, you should know his record well so you can at least defend him. I dare you to research...somebody prove me wrong, because I hope I am. I'm tired of the Republicans, but WE still need to follow the constitution. If Barack Obama cannot fulfill the basic 3 requirements, he should withdraw. Any TRUE American would gladly and simply give the courts original documents. What is he hiding...?

www.restoretherepublic.com/elections/obama-dnc-admit-all-allegations-in-berg-v-obama

chris (2008-10-24 10:32:00)

biden was a very smart choice. i like his enthusiasm.

Obama Will Be Our Next President (2008-10-24 17:29:00)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjjOG0EKEHk>

For every person who watches this increases it's power and message.

This is a Music video was made to help promote getting out and voting for Obama.

If this gets a minimum of 14,000 views it will make it on a CNN segment.

Please if you have 1-2 minutes, follow the link and tell everyone about it. If your in support of Obama winning this presidency, I'm confident you'll view this and tell others about it.

Here's the link again: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjjOG0EKEHk>

Thank you for your support

Dave (2008-10-29 09:39:00)

Voting for Obama will turn out to be the worst decision you ever make.

He is going to tax the heck out of the business man to give to those who make little or dont work at all.

If you dont make over 250k a year you are still the person who will be paying the taxes...

You see, his plan wont work.

If you tax the big companies to death (he's gonna raise taxes substantially) then they will do one of two things...

They will leave the country to do their business like most already have or they will simply pass their tax costs down to you, the employee and the consumer.

This is just one reason not to vote for Obama.

Anonymous (2008-10-29 09:39:00)

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This is just one reason not to vote for Obama.

Anonymous (2008-10-29 09:58:00)

Republicans are in a world of hurt. Early voting is favoring Democrats by a wide margin. Now this is usually a Republican strength. Last time around they outworked Democrats in voter turnout but this time it looks like the Dems will run away with the numbers. Early voting is a great indicator of the overall turnout figures.

obamarox (2008-11-04 03:41:00)

spread the message, get your friends to vote! Make sure they're near their phone ;) (its FREE to all Obama supporters)

<http://www.yourcallforchange.com>

Anonymous (2008-11-09 02:13:00)

President Obama did not remove the american flag from his plane. You conservitave nit wits need to pay attention: YOU LOST. Please be aware that it will be about 20 years before you can attempt any sort of power. The Liberals have regained power for good.

notlesu (2008-11-09 14:42:00)

President elect, Obama did not remove the american flag from his plane. You conservitave nit wits need to pay attention: on top of that, YOU LOST. Please be aware that your base is the old folks. You can't count on them in 4-20 years. The Liberals have courted the youth, which will be around for 50 years.

Don't get me wrong. Republicans are very nice people, its just the extreme right wing, nit wits (the flag pin crowd) who shed a bad light on Republicans.

One thing is certain: The USA will again, have respect from the rest of the world.

2.9 November

Barack Obama elected 44th President of United States (2008-11-04 21:44)

Sen. Barack Obama has been projected to win the United States presidential election by a significant margin. Major television networks called the race at 8 pm PST after polls in California and other western states had closed. At 8:56 pm PST, Obama had garnered 338 electoral votes to 156 for Sen. John McCain. The event marks the first election of an African American as US president.



Tue Nov 4, 11:22 PM ET

Supporters of Barack Obama react in Grant Park on election night in Chicago, Illinois. Americans elected Democrat Obama as their first black president, in a transformational election which will reshape US politics and reposition the United States on the world stage. (AFP/Timothy A. Clary)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Costa Rica Real Estate (2008-11-04 22:10:00)

Now the work begins for rising the US out of this God forbidden mess Bush created. We all hope this new President elect will bring great change.

di (2008-11-05 00:57:00)

congratulations!! from portugal

creditos (2008-11-05 02:35:00)

Un negro en la Casa Blanca

Tengo que reconocerlo: no podía imaginar a un negro como presidente de los EEUU.

Sólo en algunas películas de ciencia ficción se daba esta circunstancia, que de por sí, ya era cómica.

La realidad ha superado a la ficción.

Ahora sólo falta un negro como lehendakari.
Todo llegará...

Anonymous (2008-11-05 02:51:00)
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5svpm_ministry-of-information-bulletin-3_shortfilms

Anonymous (2008-11-05 03:24:00)
YEs, he won! Watch his victory speech here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8etsiZAmK4>

Joan (2008-11-05 09:09:00)
Yes, we can!
From spain:
<http://www.estrategiaynegocio.com/?p=259>

Madoca/Brasil (2008-11-05 10:30:00)
Sir barack Obama, desejo-lhe muitas, muitas e muitas felicidades. Parabéns!

erika Wright (2008-11-05 14:31:00)
I think it is a wonderful day to see a man of mixed descent reach the White House. To me it shows the ultimate unity when the country can come together, put their racial differences aside, and vote for a man born of the union of a white woman and a black man when in years past both white and black people have discriminated against people of mixed descent. There is no greater symbol of unity that I can imagine. Congratulations to Obama and I pray that the country stands behind him all the way. He is a highly intelligent man with great conviction. May God Bless him and his family as they embark on this treacherous journey to save this country.

Despite Logic (2008-11-05 20:18:00)
As a senior enlisted member of the United States Navy and a life long republican I am one of your more unlikely Obama supporters, however, to put it mildly, I have crossed party lines, nay, jumped party lines with arms wide open to embrace this man who can lead our country and the world into the future. Hail to the Chief! Change has come!

Anonymous (2008-11-05 21:41:00)
WOW - It's been a no-sleep night here in Atlanta!
My friend has compiled power moves that built Barack Obama into a \$660 Million-Dollar Brand and how it can help build us! The article is giveb below- if you like it, please pass it along...
I thought it was incredible! Let me know what you think; if you like it, please forward to everyone you know and go to www.brandmeline.com to learn more -YES WE DID!!!
Brand Me Like Obama!
Brand Me Minutes:
My name is Melissa Dawn Johnson, entrepreneur, personal brand strategist and Author of the book, Brand Me. Make Your Mark: Turn Passion into Profit. I'm so thrilled to share a few thoughts on such a momentous occasion. Today, I want to offer you an insider's perspective on three power moves that built the Barack Obama Brand and how these insights can help you turn your passion into profit NOW.
In these devastating economic times, I want to congratulate you on your BIG promotion. Yes, today you are appointed to CEO and Commander in Chief of Brand Me. You've held the position all along, but now is the time to take charge and run your life as a business.
On the heels of the unprecedented election, I wanted to give my professional point of view on three key power moves that built the \$660 million dollar brand called Barack Obama. If he could build a brand to the highest office in the land, in a time of recession, so can you. I'll cover these three points today, but will offer a free coaching session in much more detail on these points and more on www.brandmeline.com.

Here are three keys to victory:

Change the Game – Not only did Barack Obama launch his brand from the position of CHANGE, he embodied it. Everything from his approach, grassroots fire, igniting social networking tools and the youth vote to his name and ethnic heritage all embodied CHANGING the traditional game of politics. NOW is a moment where the unprecedented is ruling over tradition. How will you position yourself to change the game in your industry, your community, your family, your country? Change will cost you...but the benefits can be staggering if you know how to shift the game in your favor. Everyday, ask yourself: Is this move a game-changer? Am I able to inspire more to get behind my vision, can I show the benefits of playing on my team, can I create a competitive advantage, will I be empowering others to become their best? If not, go back to the drawing board.

Create a compelling story – Brands are all about great story telling. Nike has a story, America has a story...what is yours? Senator Barack Obama's story was rooted in his personal and professional journey. How are you packaging your story into something that people will find compelling and inspiring? Most importantly, how are you encouraging other people to share your story in a digital world? I can't tell you the number of email forwards I received from co-workers, family, friends and strangers with pictures, video clips, media headlines all telling some element of the Barack Obama story. You want to make your story as easy and engaging as a forward email. How are you helping those around you "forward" your story of perseverance, overcoming obstacles, unexpected success to others so they can give a voice and life to your brand?

Consistency clinches victory – Barack was able to consistently stay on message and deliver his brand. Even when he was tempted or distracted to shift his strategy, he stayed the course. In turbulent times, people are looking for an anchor. How are you able to be consistent in your delivery. Are you on time? Are you on target? Do you stand by your word? Do you deliver no matter what? Being dependable and being consistent will clinch the victory. Stay steady baby, that is what leaders do. (MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS...)

We are all a part of the American dream. Don't miss this exclusive offer for a free brand me like Obama coaching session. Please visit, www.brandmeline.com to be the first to sign up by Tuesday, November 18th. I will take you through simple and powerful branding techniques that built the Barack Obama brand and can help build yours. He made history...now its your turn!

Brand Your Best,
Melissa Dawn Johnson
Personal Brand Strategist

Madoca/Brasil (2008-11-07 11:56:00)

Cometi um erro de digitação: O nome de Barack entrou com letra minúscula.

Madoca/São Paulo (SP)/Brasil (2008-11-09 04:51:00)

Madoca acha que sir Obama vai retirar todos os soldados americanos que se encontram no Iraque. Madoca sabe que Obama é sionista e pacifista e que os EUA irão readquirir o status perdido com os oito anos sob o comando de Bush.

Madoca é branca e ama os negros, amarelos e vermelhos porque todos nós fazemos parte da criação de Deus.

A boy with glasses (2008-11-10 06:59:00)

I felt very strong emotions the night of the election, which I had the fortune to spend at Grant Park in Chicago. A huge crowd gathered and saw history unfold...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYfmg5frW9U>

Madoca/São Paulo(SP)Brasil (2008-11-10 10:22:00)

Hi

My english is much basic.

Doorway affrro-brazilian:

<http://www.mundonegrocom.br>

(this doorway not is my authorship).

Stock market reaction to Obama election (2008-11-05 15:02)

Historically, it is not unusual for the stock market to slide after the election of a Democratic president. The fact that it was the biggest slump ever after an election has to be taken in the context of an extremely volatile market.

On the previous day, we also saw a record surge in the market for a presidential election day.

There was a bad report on jobs and service industries, but it's really hard to analyze what happened between these two days. Most of this volatile activity is due to day and swing traders who often trade according to patterns on charts or graphs known as "Japanese candlesticks." There may be little actual relationship to the election itself.

Americans generally turn to the Democrats during tough economic times. The best example of this was during the Great Depression. Bill Clinton also appeared to have benefited from the recession that hit during George H.W. Bush's term. There appears to be a general perception that Democrats will do more to help struggling workers and families, and those who are down and out.



Reuters US **stock** index futures down after **Obama** win

Reuters - 11 hours ago

By Joanne Frearson LONDON, Nov 5 (Reuters) - US **stock** futures were down on Wednesday, pointing to a lower open on Wall Street, as investors focused on the ...

Has **Obama's** Rise Caused the Markets to Fall? Forbes

Stock Set To Pull Back Wednesday Morning After **Obama** Elected President RTT News

US **stock** index futures fall after **Obama** win Reuters



Play

Obama Facing Daunting Economic Task

CBS 3 Philadelphia via Yahoo! News - 16 minutes ago

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hannah (2008-11-05 18:45:00)

My humble musical letter to president Obama:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4bZw9FmXZ4>

Best,

Hannah Friedman

Alan (2008-11-06 06:45:00)

I am optimistic about Obama's ability to drive an increase in the stock market. He just needs time to put his team together...and he could benefit from patience from my fellow Americans. For those who are in the market, this is the time to wait it out, not

sell off.
best,
Alan
<http://www.ObamaCollectors.com>

Possibilities for a progressive and green transition (2008-11-06 07:56)

President-elect Barack Obama has named former Clinton chief of staff, John Podesta, to run his transition team. Obama is wasting no time in selecting a cabinet to face the tremendous challenges lined up against his administration. The selection of Podesta might indicate a desire to seek old Clinton operatives rather than bringing in outsiders. However, it is expected that Obama will appoint some non-Washington faces to stay consistent with his message of change. Obviously as Clinton was the only Democratic president to serve in nearly three decades, most experienced Washington insiders within the party would have served in his administration. Although the push has been toward the "center right," here are some possible progressive and green choices that Obama could make in choosing his cabinet.

Secretary of Climate Change

Ok, such a position does not exist, but many are suggesting that Obama create an office to tackle the climate change crisis. Here are some possible picks:

Van Jones – founding president of Green For All and a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress. He is also the author of *The Green Collar Economy*. Not much Washington experience here – a true outsider – and an African American. Many people of color will be looking to see whether the first African American president toes the line on diversity in the appointment process.

Gov. Bill Richardson – He has done a great job in cleaning up his state of New Mexico. Promised to be the "energy president" before dropping out of the primary. Also, would help in developing a diversity profile as he is a Latino American.

Secretary of State

Al Gore – probably not likely that he would accept this position but Gore's stock around the world has risen due to his work on global climate change. Of course, this would make him a good candidate for climate change czar as well.

Susan Rice – one of Obama's foreign policy advisers, she is a former assistant secretary of state and a strong proponent of multilateral engagement. A woman and African American.

Sen. John Kerry – an early and strong Obama supporter, Kerry is one of the betting favorites for this position. He would be a good choice. He has strong network of international connections.

Secretary of Energy

Jason Grumet – head of the National Commission on Energy Policy and the Bipartisan Policy Center, and chief Obama adviser on energy and the environment.

Dan Reichert – formerly assistant energy secretary under President Clinton, a lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council, and a sales executive at a renewable energy firm. Now he is director of climate change and energy initiatives at Google.org.

Ian Bowles – secretary of energy and environmental affairs in Massachusetts under Gov. Deval Patrick.

More to come later.



Play

Napolitano part of Obama's **transition team**

KTVK 3TV Phoenix via Yahoo! News - Nov 05 4:28 PM



Play

Transition Time

FOX News via Yahoo! News - Nov 05 9:03 AM

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on transition (2008-11-06 10:29)

Secretary of Education

Colin Powell – There is speculation that Barack will appoint at least one Republican to his cabinet.

The former secretary of state is one logical choice. In 1997, he founded America's Promise, an alliance of national organizations dedicated to teaching today's youth

, and in 2008 was spokesperson for National Mentoring Month.

Alma Vivian Powell – wife of Colin Powell and Co-Ch

air of America's Promise. Both her father and uncle were high school principals. She has authored two children's books, America's Promise and My Little Red Wagon .

HUD Secretary

Rep. James Clyburn – a South Carolina representative has been a champion of low income housing.

Mayor Shirley Franklin – has worked hard for affordable housing, housing for homeless veterans, etc. in Atlanta, where she is mayor.

Secretary of the Interior

Gov. Ed Rendell – he's done a good job cleaning things up in his home state of Pennsylvania.

Jamie Rappaport Clark – Bill Clinton's former Fish and Wildlife Service director managed Endangered Species Act protections and expanded the National Wildlife Refuge System. She would make a great choice.

Jay Inslee – a congressional rep. from Seattle, he authored the book *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy*.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Judith (2008-11-07 07:40:00)

What are the chances of the official "political servants" in the House, Senate and Congress taking cuts in their wages and/or benefits, so the rest of the population, the workhorses of the US, have fair-pay jobs, health, and retirement benefits – if nothing else it could be a symbol of the integrity that Obama has started to inject into our ailing democracy. Will Obama continue the tradition of political leaders having multiple places to live around the states and world?

jmb, Polk County, TN

More on Transition (3) (2008-11-07 10:44)

The first confirmed appointment by President-elect Barack Obama is Rep. Rahm Emanuel from Obama's hometown of Chicago.

Obama called Emanuel the best person he knows at getting things done. The Illinois congressman is known both for his steady stream of expletives and results. He offers the urgency in an urgent situation in contrast to Obama's usual easy-going style.

Emanuel's flashy, fiery get-it-done approach may be meant to balance Obama's more cerebral tendencies.

Some Republicans have complained that Emanuel is too partisan and confrontational, but others note that he has been effective at working across party lines.

Here are some more progressive suggestions for cabinet positions:

Secretary of Defense

Gen. Wesley Clark – this might require some burying of the hatchet, but Clark has the obvious combination of military and political experience.

Sen. James Webb – he opposes the Iraq War and introduced a bill that would prevent military spending for any confrontation in Iran. A Vietnam veteran and former Secretary of the Navy, he resigned the latter post in protest to cuts in the military budget. However, there is no indication that he opposes Obama's proposed cuts in military spending.

National Security Adviser

James Steinberg –
deputy national security adviser during Clinton administration.

Dr. Susan Rice – also recommended for Secretary of State.

Dr. Samantha Powers – good pick but maybe unlikely due to her outburst against the Clinton campaign during the primary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama conferring with world leaders (2008-11-09 09:50)

President-elect Barack Obama has talked with various world leaders since winning Tuesday's election. In a telephone conversation with Chinese Hu Jintao, the two reportedly discussed mutual concerns including the Taiwan situation.

Obama also talked with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and the two reportedly have agreed to meet in person soon. Medvedev said that Obama gives Russia a "second wind" in relations with the United States.

Among other leaders whom Obama has spoken with include Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Lech Kaczynski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain.

X

Boston Globe

X

Hu, Obama discuss China-US relations: state media

AFP - 2 hours ago

BEIJING (AFP) - China and the United States should "accommodate each other's concerns," Chinese President Hu Jintao told US President-elect Barack Obama Saturday in a telephone conversation, state media reported.

Hu, Obama have post-election phone call United Press International

China urges Obama-led US to be careful on Taiwan Reuters

X


Calgary Herald

X

Obama and Medvedev to meet soon, Kremlin says

Reuters - 6 hours ago

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and US President-elect Barack Obama agreed to meet in person in the near future during a telephone conversation on Saturday, a Kremlin spokesman said.

Video: Medvedev hopes for 'second wind' with US under Obama RussiaToday 

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/v/KWGHm1hwBLO>

Medvedev Speech Sparks Rumor of Putin's Return New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on Transition (4) (2008-11-10 19:48)

Treasury Secretary

Sheila Bair – chair of the FDIC, she has been a proponent of greater regulation. She has supported direct assistance to distressed homeowners and is a believer of recovery from the bottom up.

Meredith Whitney – managing director of Oppenheimer & Co., she correctly predicted much of the current financial mess that faces the country and world.

Commerce Secretary

Federico Pena – former Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Energy during Clinton administration. An early supporter of Obama and one of his Latino co-chairs.

Penny Pritzker – business executive, Obama fundraiser.

Health and Human Services Secretary

Dr. Howard Dean – a medical doctor and current head of the Democratic Party. Dean reportedly is interested in the position.

Sen. Hillary Clinton – a bit unlikely, but she would not be a bad choice.

Sen. Daniel Akaka – defender of Medicaid access, Akaka might benefit from coming from Obama's homestate of Hawai'i.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rossi (2008-11-11 06:31:00)

Mr. Obama, adopt one of my cute little dogs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLb7Qai-p7M>

Poodle Toy Apricot, with parents with good temper, nice structure and perfect for a family with children like mine.

Hey Mr. Obama, consider taking one of my puppies, as a gift. I know you will take good care of any of them.

Anonymous (2008-11-13 05:29:00)

This public employee threatened OBAMA.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNe_91z-7nw

Alonso Xa (2008-11-13 13:06:00)

Will there be any real change. The world is a really grim place at the moment

César (2008-11-14 10:51:00)

<http://www.obamatothewhitehouse.com/>

Can't wait for Obama's inauguration

César (2008-11-14 10:51:00)

<http://www.obamatothewhitehouse.com/>

Can't wait for Obama's inauguration

Comment: Obama must act with all 'deliberate haste' (2008-11-11 11:19)

President-elect Barack Obama knows that time is of the essence.

Some 16 years ago, Bill Clinton also swept into office with a stunning victory including wins in many southern states where Democrats had not won in a long time. Clinton's party enjoyed full control of Congress also with numbers very similar to Obama's current advantage.

However, within just two years, the Democrats had lost control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Republicans have dominated the legislature for most of the period since that time until the 2006 elections.

Obama is already reviewing George W. Bush's executive orders and is expected to reverse many of them. Unlike Clinton, Obama is wasting no time in making key appointments.

While Clinton faced an economic recession upon entering office, most analysts will agree that his problems pale in comparison to those Obama must tackle.



BBC News Editorial: Undoing Bush's **executive orders**

San Jose Mercury News, USA - 15 hours ago

Among the best is **Obama's** opportunity to overturn some of Bush's worst **executive orders**. Where to begin: Stem cell research ban? Gone. ...

Obama team: No decisions on reversing Bush **orders** Reuters

Obama Plans to Overturn Bush **Executive Orders** Environment News Service

Obama Team Reviewing Bush **Orders** 'Across-the-Board' (Update1) Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on Transition (5) (2008-11-12 08:40)

Attorney General

Gov. Deval Patrick – of Massachusetts and former assistant U.S. attorney for civil rights.

Gov. Janet Napolitano – governor of Arizona.

Rep. Artur Davis , D-Ala. – member of House Judiciary Committee.

Jerry Brown – current Attorney General and former governor of the State of California.

Labor Secretary

Maria Elena Durazo – executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and national co-chair of Obama campaign.

Rep. George Miller , D-Calif., chairman of House Education and Labor Committee.

John Chiang – current California state controller and former Board of Equalization member. Stood up for state worker salaries against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Transportation Secretary

Rep. Doris Matsui , D-CA – member of House Transportation Committee.

Jane Garvey – former head of Federal Aviation Administration.

Rep. James Oberstar , D-Minn. – chairman of House Transportation Committee.

Rep. Peter DeFazio , D-Ore. – member of the House Transportation Committee.

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How did Obama do it? (2008-11-13 09:21)

Arguably no presidential candidate had faced the challenge that Barack Obama faced in winning the highest office in America.

Not only would he need to overcome the race barrier as the first African American president, but he had many other strikes going against him as well. He was young – he will be the fifth youngest president ever to take office – and his political resume was not that extensive.

He grew up in Hawai'i and Indonesia, areas not exactly known for churning out presidents, and he had an immigrant

African father. These factors meant that Obama would have to fight even for some African American votes in the early going.

His father granted him a strange name including a tricky middle name of "Hussein."

It would be hard to imagine a family farther away from "Middle America" than Obama's, at least if we use the traditional definition of that concept. His mother was in fact from that region, Kansas to be precise, but his father was born into a Muslim family, and he has a sister who is half-Indonesian and Buddhist by religion.

Obama ran from the Midwestern state of Illinois, which had produced Abraham Lincoln, a candidate whose experience closely matched Obama's. However, the last time a candidate based in a Midwestern state had won the presidential election was in the 1920s when Warren G. Harding from Ohio was elected. The last 15 elections had been won by candidates from the states of Texas, California, Arkansas, Georgia and Massachusetts.

Probably most importantly, Obama faced one of the most "inevitable" candidates imaginable. Hillary Clinton had all the big connections thought necessary for success. The great bulk of the Democratic establishment was behind her. The major hope for support against Hillary came from more activist labor unions that tended to instead support John Edwards.

Even after winning the primary, many thought that Barack would still have a tough time gaining the presidency. There was constant talk of the "Bradley effect" and early on about divisions in the Democratic Party.

So then, how was Barack Obama able to engineer the greatest "upset" in presidential history?

First of all, Barack was an ideal candidate especially in terms of timing. He made few mistakes and his message of change was right on target. Indeed, he embodied change in terms of his career and message. Even his strangeness in name, family, upbringing, etc., by which his opponents sought to distance him from the electorate, acted indirectly to bolster his linkage with the concept of change.

Barack selected people for his campaign team, who like him, made few mistakes.

And like many other successful candidates in the past, Barack embraced a new medium to reach voters and supporters and took it to the level needed to win. Howard Dean, and even his opponent John McCain, pioneered campaigning on the internet to a great extent, but it was the Obama team that came up with the winning formula.

Social networking and texting were in their infancies in this country during the Dean campaign, but were used by Obama and his supporters to the full extent. The ease, cost effectiveness and reach of online networks were fully demonstrated during this election cycle.

Online organizing was used to support traditional campaign work like phone-banking, canvassing, tabling and rallies but also for more spectacular efforts in other media. The large publicity event was used to the fullest extent by the Obama team. At first, Obama's opponents hammered him for show-boating, but before long they too embraced the ideas of big rallies and other press events.

Television, of course, is still the main media for reaching voters. The television audience is still much larger than its online counterpart especially when one considers that most people still use the internet only for email and do not bother to surf the web. Online videos are still too choppy for most connections to compare with full sensory television ads.

However, as more people come online, and more young texters reach voting age, the situation will continue to flow toward electronic campaigning. An online video is much, much cheaper to distribute, for example, than a national television ad even if it reaches fewer people. And when you build up your online network, you can tap them for money to buy those expensive tv ads later on down the road.

By using online networks at levels never before fathomed, Obama wielded a 'secret weapon' that his opponents were never able to deal with effectively.

That together with the timing of Obama's appearance on the scene, the consistency of his message with his life and work, all worked together to overcome the tremendous obstacles in his path toward victory.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

shepherdess (2008-11-13 21:48:00)

Hey! I wrote Oprah this letter, I don't know if she heard me. Anybody?

Dear Oprah!

Over the years I have written you, I have sent you my book, and musical project. Somehow my heart never spoke loud enough for you to hear me.

However this time I am crying out to you as loudly as I can. I almost gave up, and thought, "Perhaps I am just too low", and no one can hear me from way down here. Though I keep trying to be heard, my cry sometimes has been muted by despair.

Then the night before last night, 'Inside-Edition', reported that President Elect Barack Obama had slept outside on top of his luggage, on a street in NYC for a night. He had gone there to attend Columbia University. The person he was suppose to stay with did not answer the door.

I thought to myself – if that man had given up, he would have never known what it would be like to sleep in the White House. (The Peoples House Now). I got up and said...my white house is somewhere out there, I have got to get up and cry louder.

Oprah, I have written a song, called, "World Heal Thyself". I sing it for God although I want to sing it to the world and for our First Family. I know I'm the most unlikely and so was he [Obama], so were you, although someone took your hand and pulled you up.

They had to look past a lot to do it, the color of your skin, your background, your pain, but somebody heard you. You have heard many cries over the years....can you hear me?

I am not as young as I once was and perhaps I should not reach up so high for your hand but if Barack had not reached, if he had not believed, if there had not been the, "Yes We Can" somewhere down in his spirit, way before we ever heard him utter the words — We would have never heard him say those words today.

Oprah, I'm crying, as loud as I can today....Does your heart hear mine?

At the Saviors Feet, Crying, "God Let Oprah Hear Me".

Shepherdess

Peru offers hairless dog for Obamas (2008-11-13 18:29)

The Association of Friends of Hairless Dogs of Peru (AFHDP) sent a letter to the US embassy in Peru suggesting that the Peruvian Hairless Dog would be a good choice for the Obamas, the new US first family.

President-elect Barack Obama had promised his kids a new puppy if he were elected to the Whitehouse, but his daughter Malia has allergic asthma.

The Peruvian Hairless Dog is generally considered hypoallergenic as it has no hair or dander.

KAREL NAVARRO/Associated Press

A four-month-old puppy called Machu Picchu is seen today in Lima, Peru. The owners of the Peruvian hairless dog have offered it to U.S. President-elect Barack Obama. Obama has promised his daughters a new pet for the White House but one of them is allergic to most breeds. The owners of the Peruvian Hairless Dog say it is perfect for kids who are sensitive to dogs.

Will it be a **Peruvian dog** for the Obamas?

NDTV.com, India - 8 hours ago

US President-elect **Obama** had earlier said that choosing a pet **dog** for his daughters is a 'major issue.'

The **Peruvian** puppy being offered to the Obamas is ...

Peru offers flealess **dog** to Obamas The Press Association

Peru offers to send a bald **dog** to the Obamas Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State? (2008-11-14 10:35)

Looks like Sen. Hillary Clinton will be strongly considered for the position of secretary of state based on unusual leaks from the Obama transition team, and a meeting between Clinton and President-elect Barack Obama.

Should Clinton accept it might indicate that she is keeping open the possibility of running for president again in 2016 when she will be 67 years old. In comparison, Sen. John McCain would have been 72 if had won the election.

By becoming secretary of state, Clinton could rack up some executive branch experience and would be better positioned to compete for an Obama endorsement and for his social networking support.

Obama, Clinton meet to talk about her future

CNN International - 47 minutes ago

(CNN) – President-elect Barack Obama met with his former rival Sen. Hillary Clinton to see if she would be interested in a role in his administration, two sources told CNN Friday.

Hillary Clinton mum on political future Reuters

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

mansid (2008-11-15 15:38:00)

Hillary Clinton is the best choice to be the Secretary of State. She has vast experience and knowledge about international economics

Obama urges fast response on economy (2008-11-15 10:10)

President-elect pushed for Congress to pass a quick economic stimulus plan and said if they failed he would make such a package his first priority in office.

Obama also specifically asked for a "down payment" on his rescue plan in the form of an extension of unemployment benefits. He made the appeal on his YouTube address, a planned weekly communication with the public.

✕

Voice of America

1320

Obama Urges Congress to Make 'Down Payment' on Economic Rescue

Bloomberg - 2 hours ago

By Vincent Del Giudice Nov. 15 (Bloomberg) – President-elect Barack Obama urged Congress to extend unemployment benefits as part of a “down payment” on a US economic rescue plan as world leaders meet in Washington today to fight the global recession ...

Obama urges Congress to quickly pass rescue plan Reuters

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Polly (2008-11-16 14:58:00)

Hello! I'm making a survey on my blog under the title: "Only a dream"

If you could make a question, a plea, a wish to Obama, what would you say?

Please visit my blog and let all our voices be heard!

Thank you. Polly.

Barack Obama resigns senate seat, appoints more staff (2008-11-16 10:17)

President-elect Barack Obama officially resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate representing Illinois on Sunday. Obama was the second African American senator from that state.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat, will appoint Obama's successor. Some rumor that he may choose Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.

Obama also announced more staff appointments including longtime friend and supporter Valerie Jarret as a White House senior adviser. Pete Rouse, Obama's senate chief of staff, will also come aboard as a senior adviser.

It looks almost certain that Sen. Hillary Clinton will be the new Secretary of State. As the situation stands with all the media hoopla it would be awkward if either Obama failed to offer her the position or if she refused.

Palin preparing for 2012?

With all the media appearances of Gov. Sarah Palin, it looks rather obvious that she is getting ready for a possible run for president in 2012.

Really when you think about it, there are not many other good Republican contenders out there. Most people cannot name a prominent Republican who has name recognition and would make a feasible candidate.

Palin obviously needs a lot of polishing especially when it comes to national television interviews.



Voice of America Schiliro Added to Team

Washington Post, United States - 9 hours ago

and the House Oversight Committee, and a policy director for **Obama** adviser and former senator Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.). **Jarrett's** job was described by ...

Obama names campaign insider as senior White House adviser CBC.ca

Clinton Said to Be Frontrunner for Secretary of State (Update1) Bloomberg

Obama urges aid for homeowners and automakers Chicago Tribune

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

eon (2008-11-17 15:45:00)

The Republicans would surely have won if they'd let Sarah Palin be more like Michael Palin. As an Alaskan she's a natural for the lumberjack song.

And when those interviewers caught her out she would've garnered a lot more sympathy if they'd gone 'never heard of the Bush doctrine? That's a chip up the nose, Sarah'.

Obama, free trade and outsourcing (2008-11-16 16:00)

Now that Barack Obama is president-elect, some nations are worried about his policies on foreign economic relations. Latin nations are worried about Obama's free trade policies, while many Asian nations are more concerned about his views on outsourcing.

X

Conservative protesters, holding pictures of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama (L) and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, shout slogans during a rally supporting the U.S.-South Korea free trade agreement (FTA) talks in Seoul November 11, 2008. Obama has said he opposes the free-trade deal with South Korea unless it is renegotiated to grant greater access to the Asian market for U.S. automakers. REUTERS/Jo Yong-Hak (SOUTH KOREA)

However, given the current jittery world economy, it would appear unlikely that Obama would take any moves seen as drastic on either front. Realistically, many American corporations just will not be able to compete if they are forced to manufacture or provide services in the United States. This is a reality facing all developed countries competing in the global market place.

At the same time, Obama has voiced concern about the lack of environmental and labor standards in some countries that want "free trade."

A trade war, of course, would be very detrimental at this time. The start of the Great Depression was characterized by many nations of the world drawing inward to "protect" their economies. This stifled trade and the flow of capital and resources worsening the situation according to most historians.

One such American policy was the protectionist 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act that raised import fees on some 20,000 items to record levels.

The new world **trade** order under President **Obama**?

Philippine Star, Philippines - Nov 7, 2008

During the campaign, candidate **Obama** said that he would not encourage US firms that "export jobs", ie **outsourcing** by taking away their tax breaks. ..

No Free Pass for Free **Trade**

Motley Fool - Nov 7, 2008

I'm a strong believer in the benefits of globalization, so I jumped at the opportunity to review President-elect **Obama's** platform on **trade**. ...

Capitalist confusion Indiana Daily Student

Obama against **outsourcing**?

Legal Business Online, Australia - Nov 13, 2008

In-house departments can breathe a sigh of relief as, according to the president of **outsourcing trade** body Nasscom Ganesh Natarajan, there are no specific ...



Christian Science Monitor **Latin** jitters over **Obama's** free-**trade** policies

Christian Science Monitor, MA - 1 hour ago

Despite concerns among **Latin** American free-traders, analysts note that **Obama** is not against the idea. He supported a **trade** deal with Peru once labor and ...

Trade pact with Colombia would benefit the US Longview Daily News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



money magnet (2008-11-17 04:58:00)
good articles

Obama pledges support for flailing auto industry (2008-11-17 15:09)

Barack Obama will support the Detroit calling a potential auto industry collapse "a disaster." However, the president-elect said the assistance "cant' be a blank check" either.

Saving Detroit, though, may be a difficult task. The industry has been ailing for some time and it continued to push big cars and SUVs in poor judgment and lack of vision for the future. Still there is a lot of pride and jobs tied into American automobile manufacturing.

A single payout is unlikely to work due to the current economic situation. So one really knows how much money it may take to get the "Big Three" back on their feet.



ABC News Facing the Angry Ducks

Human Events, DC - 14 hours ago

Last week, both Speaker Pelosi and President-elect **Obama** said they want some undefined part of the \$700 billion bailout to go to the **automobile** industry and ...

Pelosi outlines aid package for US automakers The Associated Press

Dems Attach Strings To **Auto** Bailout CBS News

The Bailout Blues: Taxpayers can't fix what's ailing **auto** industry TheReporter.com



Washington Post **Obama: Auto** industry collapse would be 'a disaster'

CNN - 22 hours ago

"It's my belief that we need to provide assistance to the **auto** industry," **Obama** tells veteran correspondent Steve Kroft, according to excerpts released by ... [EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-11-18 09:22:00)

Barack Obama President Find the BIT

hey guys check this out, it is quite cool

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFlizN2ZAQ4>

Conservatives: How Obama won (2008-11-18 09:24)

There's an interesting conservative analysis "How Obama got elected" by John Ziegler who interviewed a dozen voters, and also commissioned a Zogby poll.

The study, which was featured on Fox News, claims that the news media was responsible for electing Obama despite his "extreme liberal positions and radical political alliances."

[EMBED]

According to the site, those interviewed in the video above were chosen for the following reasons:

On Election day twelve Obama voters were interviewed extensively right after they voted to learn how the news media impacted their knowledge of what occurred during the campaign. These voters were chosen for their apparent intelligence/verbal abilities and willingness to express their opinions to a large audience. The rather shocking video below seeks to provide some insight into which information broke through the news media clutter and which did not.

Of course, that fact that those interviewed were screened (by whom?) brings in to question the randomness of the sample and how much it represents the general voting population.

Ziegler asks more obscure questions about Obama and Biden, as compared to questions on well-publicized information on McCain and Palin.

Obviously, the Palin information was covered extensively on the media. Anyone who followed the Obama campaign

knows that there was equally a lot of negative coverage on the president-elect as well. For example, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright controversy.

Here is my analysis on how Obama won.

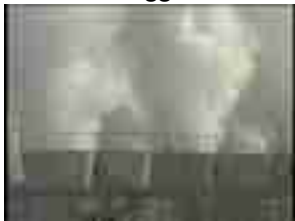
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Schwarzenegger opens climate change conf. with Obama (2008-11-18 15:00)

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger opened an international climate change summit Tuesday in Beverly Hills with special guest President-elect Barack Obama.

Schwarzenegger wants to reduce emissions by 33 percent in California by the year 2020.



Reuters

Climate change price tag

Report


Oct 31, 2008

Schwarzenegger's conference included government officials from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Schwarzenegger opens climate summit with Obama

The Associated Press - 22 minutes ago

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger opened his international climate change summit on Tuesday by upstaging himself with an even bigger political star - President-elect Barack Obama.

Video: Obama Pledges New Direction on Climate Change AssociatedPress 

IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/v/UwaGWP_xvQ8

Obama vows climate action despite financial crisis Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Eric Holder set for Attorney General post (2008-11-18 20:44)

News agencies are reporting that President-elect Barack Obama has informed Eric H. Holder Jr. that he will likely be selected as Attorney General, although the final decision has not been made yet.

When confirmed, Holder will become the first African American to hold this Cabinet position. He was appointed the first African American deputy attorney general during the Clinton administration.

Reports also indicate that Obama will choose Peter R. Orszag as director of the Congressional Budget Office, and Jacob Lew, Clinton's budget director, as director of the National Economic Council.

So far, it looks like Obama will bring back many of Clinton's old team for their experience in Washington in handling key positions. Many of Obama's Chicago and Senate associates are taking adviser staff positions up to this point.



BBC News Holder Seen as Pick for Justice Post as Obama Begins to Settle on Team

New York Times - 59 minutes ago

By ERIC LICHTBLAU and JOHN M. BRODER WASHINGTON - President-elect Barack Obama's transition team has signaled to Eric H. Holder Jr.

Barack Obama wants to pick Eric Holder Jr. as attorney general Chicago Tribune
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Al-Qaeda tape lambasts Obama (2008-11-19 10:19)

Al-Qaeda has released a new tape with No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri criticizing President-elect Barack Obama.

Al-Zawahiri compares Obama unfavorably to Malcolm X, the black nationalist leader who parted from the Nation of Islam to become an orthodox Sunni Muslim. He praised Malcolm X for fighting against the West's oppression of peoples throughout the world, stating that Obama instead will uphold US policies of hegemony.

"That's why it wasn't strange that Malik al-Shabazz (may Allah have mercy on him) was killed, while you have climbed the rungs of the presidency to take over the leadership of the greatest criminal force in the history of mankind and the leadership of the most violent crusade ever against the Muslims," he said.

[EMBED]

Al-Zawahiri used the Arabic term abayd al bayt "slave of the house," to roughly conform to Malcolm X's "House Negroes" claiming that Obama would serve white interests.

In contrast to Malcolm X, who left the Nation of Islam, considered outside the pale to orthodox Muslims, Obama was said to have drifted in the opposite direction.

"You were born to a Muslim father, but you chose to stand in the ranks of the enemies of the Muslims, and pray the prayer of the Jews, although you claim to be Christian, in order to climb the rungs of leadership in America. And so you promised to back Israel, and you threatened to strike the tribal regions in Pakistan, and to send thousands more

troops to Afghanistan, in order for the crimes of the American crusade in it to continue," the message said. The message was confirmed by U.S. counterterrorism officials on Wednesday. Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri are believed to be in hiding in the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, although most experts admit that their general locations are not known.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Tom Daschle to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services (2008-11-19 14:09)

Former Senate majority leader Tom Daschle has accepted an offer by President-elect Barack Obama to run Health and Human Services.

Daschle was one of Obama's earliest supporters and many of Obama's campaign and senate staff had come from the former South Dakota senator own former staff or from his recommendations.



CTV.ca **Tom Daschle accepts Obama offer to lead Health and Human Services**

Los Angeles Times - 1 hour ago

Ron Edmonds / AP Daschle, a former Senate majority leader, would head the agency that will handle the incoming administration's efforts to expand health insurance coverage, a Democratic source says.

Sources close to Sen. Hillary Clinton say that she is also considering whether to take the job of secretary of state. Obama reportedly has made it known to Clinton that he wants her to accept the job.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Napolitano, Pritzker vetted for cabinet positions (2008-11-20 09:14)

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and billionaire Penny Pritzker are being vetted for the positions of homeland security secretary and commerce secretary respectively, according to Democratic sources.

Napolitano was one of Obama's earliest supporters among state governors and Pritzker served as Obama's national finance chair. Pritzker is one of several Chicago associates that Obama is considering appointing to key positions.



Thu Nov 20, 7:40 AM ET

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano speaks during closing ceremonies of the 26th Border Governors Conference in Los Angeles, August 15, 2008.

(Fred Prouser/Reuters) 

BBC News

Sources: Pritzker, Napolitano being vetted

CNN - 2 hours ago

(CNN) – Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano is President-elect Barack Obama's top choice for homeland security secretary, according to multiple Democratic sources close to the transition.

Arizona governor in line for homeland security post Boston Globe

[EMBED]

Napolitano is DHS secretary pick

[EMBED]

Hillary may be announced as secretary of state within the next week

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-11-20 18:34:00)

I started a video blog commenting on Obama's address to the nation. Seemed like something up your alley:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlaZMqQGFD8>

It's pretty silly, enjoy!

J Milken (2008-11-20 22:55:00)

And I created a score card for Obama

<http://theobamascorecard.blogspot.com/>

Clinton to be named Secretary of State after Thanksgiving (2008-11-21 11:16)

According to an anonymous Obama transition aide, the president-elect will nominate Sen. Hillary Clinton for secretary of state after the Nov. 27 Thanksgiving holiday.

Such leaks from the Obama team were rare during the campaign process, but are now common with the transition probably as a means of airing out possible Obama choices.

Should Clinton accept, which seems likely for a number of reasons including husband Bill's willingness to be vetted, she would become the third woman to hold the post. Madeline Albright, who served under Bill Clinton, and current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, are the first two women to serve as secretaries of state.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anti-war groups fear Obama cabinet of "hawks" (2008-11-21 14:55)

A Los Angeles Times article today reported that antiwar activists are fearful that President-elect Barack Obama is selecting hawkish appointees for key national security posts.

During the early part of his campaign, Obama attracted media attention for his consistent opposition to the Iraq War, which set him apart from his opponents.

However, so far, Obama has leaned heavily toward nominees who supported the war. Sam Hussein of the Institute for Public Accuracy noted: "It's astonishing that not one of the 23 senators or 133 House members who voted against the war is in the mix" for cabinet positions.

Many groups are worried about Obama's current commitment to pull out troops from Iraq in 16 months, a key campaign promise that he reiterated repeatedly throughout both the primary and general election campaigns.

Others believe that Obama should be given a chance, and note that he's not even in office yet. "I take him at his word that he is committed to ending the occupation of Iraq in 16 months and that he's going to assemble a team that's committed to that goal," said Tom Andrews, national director of Win Without War.

Obama has also said that he plans to ratchet military operations in Afghanistan and also possibly Pakistan in pursuit of al-Qaeda and the Taliban. However, many military commanders are ready to negotiate with the Taliban, at least, frustrated in their efforts to squash the fundamentalist organization.



Family Security Matters Anti-war groups fear **Obama** appointees are too hawkish

Newsday, NY - 13 hours ago

BY PAUL RICHTER | LOS ANGELES TIMES WASHINGTON - Anti-war groups and liberal activists are increasingly concerned at signs that Barack **Obama's** national ...

Activists: **Obama** Cabinet picks backed war United Press International

Keep Gates Wall Street Journal

Iraq war protesters fear cabinet shortlist Sydney Morning Herald

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama announces job creation plan (2008-11-22 09:14)

Addressing the nation on his YouTube/radio address, President-elect promised a plan that would create 2.5 million jobs by 2011.

The plan is not worked out yet, but from the video it sounds like it will involve repairing crumbling infrastructure and investments in new green energy. No estimate on a price tag, or method of payment either. Hopefully it will involve raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

[EMBED]



New York Times - 1 hour ago

Following is a transcript of President-elect Barack Obama's radio address for Saturday, Nov. 22, as released by the president-elect's office.

Plan would create 2.5 million jobs by 2011, he says CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



JabberJan (2008-11-22 09:41:00)

I hope he will include high speed train rails - I think we need our infrastructure rebuilt and this would be better for all than just sending an unemployment check.

Anonymous (2008-11-22 11:25:00)

Just found this other really weird Obama video on youtube while watching the video you posted <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=yV9p160tKFw>

Looks like a real Obama celebration??

Anonymous (2008-11-22 16:09:00)

It is of course of form of insanity, since it will all be done on money created out of air—which will devalue the existing money—your savings and earnings—and also be created, for no reason except that its part of a scam, as debt ... Any idiot in the world can dream up ways to spend magic money in Happy Land ... This isn't a public service. He's simply writing pretend checks against your real labor and real property for a fantasy scheme to keep the unwashed masses pacified.

What people don't understand is the real cost of all of these schemes is shown in the loss of free will and actual prosperity. The currency is destroyed and in the process the ability to maintain one's business, to be employed at one of these businesses, to make house payments, car payments, to be, in short, in charge of your own destiny, is lost ... So the crisis is created by reckless money creation and central manipulation of the economy, and the solution is what? Creating ten times the money, and making the national economy the sole property of the people who destroyed it.

If the money was created as a public service, a free tool to facilitate trade, we could, conceivably, go a thousand years without a depression. Ask yourself why this valueless paper is created as debt, with constantly mounting interest ... There is no reason whatsoever. Ask yourself why the amount in circulation isn't regulated according to economic activity so there is never too much or too little and the value is always maintained ...The equation to achieve this is absurdly simple. Look up colonial scrip. Obama isn't offering solutions, he's offering some big doses of the problem. There may be temporary pleasant side effects, but the end result is destruction of our savings and earnings and destruction of our liberties. Get educated.

Barack Obama: Superhero (2008-11-22 18:52)

Barack Obama is the first president from the 'Star Trek generation' and possibly the first one to admit to collecting comic book collector

Barack Obama: Superhero (2008-11-22 19:10)

Barack Obama is the first president from the 'Star Trek generation' and possibly the first one to admit to collecting comic books as a youngster.

In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, President-elect Obama said: "I was always into the Spider-Man/Batman model. The guys who have too many powers, like Superman, that always made me think they weren't really earning their superhero status. It's a little too easy. Whereas Spider-Man and Batman, they have some inner turmoil. They get knocked around a little bit."



And during a celebrity roast in New York City this year, Obama quipped while lampooning Sen. John McCain. "Contrary to the rumors you've heard, I was not born in a manger. I was actually born on Krypton and sent here by my father Jor-El to save the planet Earth."

He has also mentioned on the campaign trail that he watched *Star Trek* as a kid. "I grew up on *Star Trek*. I believe in the final frontier," he said.

According to Leonard Nimoy, who played Lt. Commander Spock on the sci-fi series, when he first met Obama the then-candidate greeted him with the Vulcan hand salute.

Comics and movies have always been popular during tough economic times, so it will be interesting to see how Obama responds to the current crisis. Will he be able to "save the day?"

[EMBED]

Leonard Nimoy, who played Spock on *Star Trek*, recalls an encounter with Barack Obama.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-11-22 19:54:00)

Obama has **already** responded to the economic crisis, Paul. He fell over himself to give criminal bankers authority to print themselves billions and hand it to each other and generally do whatever they want without any oversight or input from the American public—except we get to pick up the tab while we lose our homes.

Obama has stated loudly and clearly that he is a tool and servant for the monetary powers that run our country. And in other areas, such as the war he voted to fund, the government spying and "thoughtcrime" laws he voted for, who funded him, the controlled media's love affair with him, and who he's surrounding himself with, he has already demonstrated beyond doubt that his change amounts to a face-lift for the fascist policies of both Bush and Clinton.

It's really stunning how people are blinded by inane publicity and the selling of personality over policy.

Obama to nominate Geithner on Monday (2008-11-23 08:15)

President-elect Barack Obama is expected to nominate Timothy F. Geithner as his Treasury Secretary on Monday. Larry Summers will likely also be appointed as head of the president's National Economic Council.



These choices probably do not indicate a move toward serious regulation in the financial industry, which may explain why the swing traders drove the stock exchange upward on news of the Geithner pick. For example, he opposes the Treasury plan to regulate the Federal Reserve Bank, and also opposes mandated capital requirements for hedge funds.

He has even characterized the current regulatory system has "an enormously complex web of rules that create perverse incentives and leave huge opportunities for arbitrage and evasion, and creates the risk of large gaps in our knowledge and authority."

However, in congressional testimony last summer, Geithner did stress the need for "substantial reforms" of the system claiming that the Fed needs "broader" authority to handle the crisis.

X

Canada.com Will **Geithner** at Treasury Keep Fighting For the Fed?

Wall Street Journal Blogs, NY - Nov 21, 2008

With Mr. **Geithner** as President-elect Barack Obama's pick to be Treasury secretary, the Treasury plan for Fed **regulation** is effectively dead. ...

A Treasury Contender Schooled in Crisis As Head of New York Fed ...

Washington Post

Wall Street lauds likely Treasury pick Minneapolis Star Tribune

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2008-11-23 18:08:00)

The Fed created the crisis quite deliberately. Watch the Money Masters on Google Video or watch Fiat Empire or try Freedom to Fascism ...

With each announcement, Obama provides more evidence that he's an unprincipled political belly-crawler. Understand money

and you will understand the corrupt nature of the system. Why wallow in ignorance? Challenge yourself! The time you spend on this blog could be spent presenting real issues to the public. Personality worship is the stuff of fascism.

Karzai, Obama discuss Afghanistan security (2008-11-23 18:52)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai spoke with US President-elect Barack Obama on Sunday for the first time. The two discussed the security situation in Afghanistan.

During the campaign, Obama promised to reinforce the US presence in Afghanistan by at least one brigade or about 4,000 troops. Karzai has publicly requested that Obama send 20,000 more troops to the country. Insurgent attacks in Afghanistan are up 30 percent from 2007.



Canada.com



Obama, Karzai Discuss Afghan Security

Voice of America - 10 hours ago

By VOA News Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he has spoken with US President-elect Barack Obama for the first time since Mr. Obama won the US election.

Obama committed to Afghanistan, says Karzai's office AFP

Obama tells Karzai Afghan security will be priority Reuters

US defense chief: More forces for Afghanistan vote The Associated Press

[EMBED]

A Taliban attack on a supply convoy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama readies \$500 billion rescue plan (2008-11-24 09:27)

Advisers and aides of President-elect Barack Obama say that he is preparing a \$500 billion stimulus package that includes new federal spending and tax cuts over the next two years. This is a significant increase over the \$175 billion plan offered during the presidential campaign.

No details of the plan are available so it can not be said how much of this will contribute to the federal budget deficit. Obama has promised to roll back Bush tax cuts for the rich, but when that will happen and whether it will be enough to cover the bill are unknown.

Today we also hear that the Bush administration will bail out Citigroup, the latest in a line of financial institutions to

be saved from the brink of insolvency.

Obviously, this nation has not seen this type of corporate chaos since the Great Depression, when the government spent more than a decade bailing out banks and corporations. Possibly the big difference here will be in the method in which these bailouts are paid for.

During the Great Depression, the government raised taxes very sharply and especially on the rich to help pay for the bailouts. This time around, so far, the corporate dole-outs are being paid for 100 % by growing the national debt.



New York Daily News **Obama Eyes \$500 Billion in Stimulus; Paulson Weighs Ramping Up Aid ...**

Wall Street Journal - 1 hour ago

By JONATHAN WEISMAN, DEBORAH SOLOMON, and JON HILSENATH Aides to President-elect Barack Obama and President George W. Bush are rushing to craft measures to shore up financial markets and prevent a policy vacuum from further harming the economy during ...

Ahead of the Bell: Slow impact seen in stimulus CNNMoney.com

House leaders clash over economic stimulus MarketWatch

The Associated Press - New York Times - Reuters - Forbes

[EMBED]

Obama economic team

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Santa Monica Sue (2008-11-25 23:23:00)

With all this press about various rescue plans, I have seen little comment about Obama's extraordinarily disappointing statement that he is reneging on his oft repeated campaign promise to roll back the tax cuts for the very wealthy to the Reagan era cuts. He justified this most eloquently and clearly, as well as standing clear about keeping his campaign pledges. Obama's knows better, and his seeming willingness to capitulate on this is most disillusioning.

Going back to the 1994 tax standards is not "raising taxes during an economic crisis." It is a small step toward creating a little more balance between the super rich and the rest of us about whom the Bush administration cared so little.

Anonymous (2008-11-26 07:11:00)

Yeah, Obama has fallen into the 'supply side economics' argument that dominated U.S. politics since Reagan that got us into this crisis. Taxing the super rich will NOT hurt the current economy. Decades of damage will not be undone by one or two stimulus plans. There is serious restructuring of the economy that is needed.

Barack Obama unveils economic team (2008-11-24 17:45)

Barack Obama named his economic team today in a press conference in Chicago including Timothy Geithner as his Treasury Secretary nominee and Lawrence Summers as the director of the National Economic Council.

"I've sought leaders who could offer both sound judgment and fresh thinking, both a depth of experience and a wealth of bold, new ideas, and most of all who share my fundamental belief that we cannot have a thriving Wall Street without

a thriving Main Street,” Obama said. The news came as Goldman Sachs Inc. predicted that the economy will shrink in the fourth quarter and the first quarter of next year in the deepest recession since 1982.



Play

Chicagoans React To **Obama's Economic** Announcements
CBS 2 Chicago via Yahoo! News - 23 minutes ago



Play

Obama Announces Economic Team
CNBC via Yahoo! News - Nov 24 10:45 AM

Geithner, Summers have eye for stimulus, restraint

Forbes - 28 minutes ago

By JIM KUHNHENN , 11.24.08, 07:01 PM EST In the president-elect's new economic team, these are not mutually exclusive views of the world.

Obama names his economic team CNNMoney.com

Economic odd couple to lead US crisis rescue Reuters



Mon Nov 24, 6:23 PM ET

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Peter Bosshard (2008-11-24 19:09:00)

During their earlier tenures at the Treasury and the IMF, Larry Summers and Tim Geithner have consistently pushed policies of financial deregulation under the Washington Consensus. They have helped create the crises which they were subsequently asked to manage. It's disappointing that Geithner and Summers are now joining the Obama administration, while people who got it right (such as Joe Stiglitz and Paul Krugman) are not even on the Transition Economic Advisory Board.

On November 4, Barack Obama said that this was "our victory." With appointments such as Summers and Geithner, his administration doesn't look like "our government" unfortunately.

For more detailed comments, see www.internationalrivers.org/en/node/3522 / and www.internationalrivers.org/en/node/3510/

Mberenis (2008-11-25 02:43:00)

There is a light to our poor financial situation. You would be surprised at how many low APR loans, bailout's, and other grants that everyone is missing out on right now.

Bailout Assistance for Everyone

Jason (2008-11-25 12:00:00)

With the Treasury Secretary on his spending spree he surely isn't trying to get a good return on the tax payers' investment. The bailout was to buy up bad mortgage debt but it never did. What is the purpose of the fund? Paulson's has warrants on many banks and they average 1 – 3 percent when enacted. Yet the cash investment is about 20 percent of the market cap. Maybe the next Treasury Secretary will be less erratic.

<http://nomedals.blogspot.com>

Anonymous (2008-11-26 08:41:00)

And what will happen to those bad mortgages? I thought the world was supposed to end if they did not address them.

Obama picks OMB Director (2008-11-25 14:05)

President-elect Barack Obama named his pick for OMB Director today. Pledging to cut wasteful budget spending Obama announced that he will choose Peter R. Orszag director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The announcement comes as a Case-Shiller survey reveals a record 16.6 % annual decline in home prices over the summer to compound the steady stream of bad economic news.

Obama Names OMB Director

Washington Post - 55 minutes ago

President-elect Barack Obama pledged Tuesday to eliminate unnecessary government spending and programs. He vowed to get rid of programs that have outlived their usefulness, or that exist solely because of the power of politicians.

Obama Vows to Cut Budget Waste New York Times

[EMBED]

Obama pledges to cut wasteful spending.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's economic strategy (2008-11-26 08:42)

As four negative economic reports were released today, President-elect Barack Obama announced the formation of a new economic recovery board that will be headed by former Fed chair Paul Volcker.

Jobless claims remained high, while consumers cut back on spending by the largest amount since the 2001 terrorist attacks. The new government reports also indicate that orders to U.S. factories dived, and homes sales fell to the lowest level in nearly 18 years.

"As soon as the recovery is well under way, we need to set up a long-term plan to reduce the structural deficit and make sure we are not leaving a mountain of debt for the next generation," Obama said during the press conference

in Chicago.

The statement indicates that Obama is willing to continue high deficit spending throughout the recessionary period. With the government scraping the barrel for cash, it may end up drying up credit markets further rather than freeing them up as intended. In effect, the government is borrowing money and then infusing into ailing institutions hoping they will resume lending out money. However, many of these banks are such bad shape they need to raise cash to keep their books in order.

And what may be enough to keep a specific institution afloat one day, may not be enough the next day depending on the stock market, the value of the bank's holdings, and other conditions. So some banks may very well be "black holes," while on the other hand the credit market is not an "inexhaustible vessel of plenty."



guardian.co.uk **Volcker** Tapped for Advisory Role

Wall Street Journal - 2 hours ago

By JONATHAN WEISMAN President-elect Barack Obama will appoint former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul **Volcker** on Wednesday to be the chairman of a new White ...

Obama Names **Volcker** to Head Panel on Reviving Economy (Update3)

Bloomberg

Obama chooses **Volcker** as economic adviser MarketWatch

Obama picks **Volcker** to head economic group CNNMoney.com

[EMBED]

Obama names Volcker to head new econ advisers @ Yahoo! Video

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jason (2008-11-26 16:56:00)

What is wrong with giving the American household a check for \$13,000? The \$13,000 would do much better in the people's hands. The \$13,000 is less than the government is spending on the original bailout and the new proposed \$800 billion. If an economic advisory board cannot put the people before their selfish reasons something is very wrong. If the people had the money they would spend it and then jobs would be added, manufacturing would grow, and last but not least the states would gain money in the form of sales taxes not to mention the added income taxes from the extra workers.

<http://nomedals.blogspot.com>

Condoleezza Rice briefs Barack Obama on Mumbai attacks (2008-11-28 15:15)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice briefed President-elect Barack Obama on coordinated attacks in Mumbai, the State Department said Friday.

"I can confirm on the record that Secretary of State Rice has called president-elect Obama twice since the attacks on Mumbai began to brief him on the situation," said spokesman Gordon Duguid. The attacks left at least 160 dead, including two Americans, and hundreds more injured.

Many see the attack as the first international challenge to the incoming Obama administration. The attacks were specifically aimed at foreigners particularly Americans, British and Israelis although most killed were Indian citizens. There are some clues leading toward neighboring Pakistan, and possible al-Qaeda links.

American forces have been unilaterally striking at targets in Pakistan with drone aircraft from across the border in Pakistan. Obama also indicated during the campaign that he might conduct unilateral strikes against terrorist targets in Pakistan.

Mumbai is no stranger to terrorist attacks but this is the first time such a brazen and prolonged operation has been carried out against such high profile targets. It also marks the first time an Islamist group has targeted primarily foreign targets during an attack on Indian soil.



Voice of America Rice briefs **Obama** on Mumbai attacks

AFP - 2 hours ago

WASHINGTON (AFP) — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called and briefed president-elect Barack **Obama** on the series of attacks in Mumbai, ...

Iran outpost decision up to **Obama**, Rice says Deseret News

Obama Speaks Again to Rice, Gets Briefed on Mumbai Attacks ABC News

Obama speaks to Rice on Mumbai terror attack Times of India

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-11-29 20:26:00)

This is off topic, but I can't find what I want. I had so much faith in Obama that at the age of 69 for the first time I voted on the Democratic ticket. Now I wonder.

Obama says he wants to fix the economy and yet he is talking to McCain about granting amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. Doesn't he understand that there are legals that need those jobs and WILL take them? That would help put the populous back to work. PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T GRANT AMNESTY TO THOSE HERE ILLEGALLY.

Obama gives hope at Poznan climate change conference (2008-11-29 16:29)

Nice to hear that Barack Obama is causing a buzz at the Poznan conference on global climate change. Delegates from 190 countries are meeting in Poznan, Poland to discuss measures to combat climate change, which is at the midpoint of two-year talks to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The United States refused to sign on at Kyoto, and many nations of the world believe there is now hope for a breakthrough with the country when Obama takes over in January of next year.

Obama is including major restructuring toward clean, renewable forms of energy as part of his economic recovery plan that could involve hundreds of billions of dollars.



The Age **Poznań** Climate Change Conference Begins Dec. 1

Earth911.com, Arizona - 4 hours ago

In **Poznań**, new legislation to replace the Protocol once it expires in 2012 will begin to be determined. Working with startup technology companies, ...

Five things to watch in **Poznan** It's Getting Hot In Here

The **Poznan** talks Globe and Mail

Poznan Brings the Battle Against Climate Change to the Next Stage Voxy



The Age Global warming summit will need the **Obama** touch

Kansas City Star, MO - 8 hours ago

By Yael T. Abouhalkah, Kansas City Star Editorial Page columnist Barack **Obama** says he'll lead a nation that will fight global warming. ...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



dan (2008-11-30 18:37:00)

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release: December 1, 2008

contact: Dan Bloom: danbloom@gmail.com

Lawsuit against world leaders for \$1 billion for global warming impact on future?

Tags: Environment, climate treaty, crimes against humanity, global warming, greenhouse emissions, international criminal court

In a global publicity stunt, a U.S. environmental activist is poised to lodge a US \$1 billion damages class action lawsuit at the International Criminal Court (ICC) against all world leaders for failing to prevent global warming.

Climate ctivist and blogger Dan Bloom, 60, a graduate of Tufts University in 1971, says he will sue world leaders for "intent to commit manslaughter against future generations of human beings by allowing murderous amounts of fossil fuels to be harvested, burned and sent into the atmosphere as CO2".

He intends to lodge the lawsuit on Dec. 6 at the ICC in the Hague.

The prosecutor's office at the ICC, the world's first permanent court (pictured below right) for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, says it is allowed to receive information on crimes that may

fall within the court's jurisdiction from any source.

"Such information does not per se trigger a judicial proceeding," the prosecutor's office hastened to add.

The question for media analysts and reporters is: will or should the prosecutor take on the case?

One might argue in defense that world leaders are in fact trying to impose climate-saving measures. In Vienna last year, almost all rich nations agreed to consider cuts in greenhouse emissions of 25-40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. Talks on a new climate treaty will be held in Poznan, Poland, from Dec. 1-12.

Rajendra Pachauri, head of the U.N. Climate Panel, says the cuts are needed to limit temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius, an amount seen by the EU, some other nations and many environmentalists as a threshold for "dangerous" climate change.

Granted then that there is growing consensus that climate change poses a real threat, is it not only world leaders who are failing to prevent global warming?

Perhaps the global collective of individuals, governments and industry is to blame and the ICC lawsuit a valid publicity stunt in the constant battle to raise awareness and prompt action?

Because it's action we need — and now, right?

Barack Obama to nominate Hillary Clinton on Monday (2008-11-30 08:39)

Democratic officials said that Barack Obama will announce his new security team including Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State.

Obama is also expected to announce that he is keeping Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, a move that is angering his more progressive supporters. He will reportedly appoint General James L. Jones, a retired Marine commandant and NATO supreme commander, as his national security adviser; with Eric H. Holder Jr. a former deputy attorney general, as his choice for attorney general and Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona as secretary of homeland security, the sources said.

Susan E. Rice, a campaign adviser and former assistant secretary of state, will be nominated as ambassador to the United Nations, a position that will be elevated to cabinet level.

X

Washington Post **Obama** likely to name Hillary Clinton to Cabinet. But wait! Can he?

Los Angeles Times, CA - 2 hours ago

The president-elect, no-drama Barack **Obama**, is expected to name his new secretary of State, all-drama Hillary Clinton, as early as tomorrow as part of the ...

Officials: **Obama** set to introduce Clinton Monday The Associated Press

Bill Clinton Is Said to Agree to Release Names of Donors New York Times

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Mumbai attacks: Preemptive strike against Obama? (2008-11-30 19:34)

A new theory suggests that the Mumbai attacks were focused on neutralizing President-elect Barack Obama 's strategy in the region.

"There's a lot of clamour for action against Pakistan from India," Pratap Bhanu Mehta, the head of the Centre for Policy Research. "This attack was not just an attempt to scuttle India's peace process with Pakistan. It was in many ways a pre-emptive strike against [Barack] Obama's strategy for the region."

Obama had promised to focus US efforts on the tribal regions that border Afghanistan and Pakistan, including pressuring Islamabad to step up pressure against al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives working in the area.

However, if Pakistan diverts its forces to the border with India in fear of possible reprisal for the Mumbai attacks, Washington will have to tread more carefully in the region.



Vancouver Sun



Mumbai attacks 'were a ploy to wreck Obama plan to isolate al-Qaeda'

Times Online - 4 hours ago

Relations between India and Pakistan were on a knife edge last night amid fears that Delhi's response to the Mumbai attacks could undermine the Pakistani army's campaign against Islamic militants on the frontier with Afghanistan.

The Region: India and Israel: The parallels Jerusalem Post

Pak shifts from Afghanistan to India PRESS TV



TopNews



Obama: Mumbai attacks will not defeat India's democracy

Jerusalem Post, Israel - Nov 28, 2008

Obama was monitoring the situation in **Mumbai**, where more than 150 people were killed in violence that began Wednesday night when gunmen attacked 10 sites ...

Investigation Begins as Assault in **Mumbai** Ends Washington Post

Obama sends condolences to Indian PM for **Mumbai** attacks victims Xinhua

A message to **Obama**? Ynetnews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

2.10 December

Barack Obama introduces security team (2008-12-01 09:03)

Barack Obama and Joe Biden are introducing their new security picks. You can watch live on CNN by clicking the link below:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream2>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Obama picks Cabinet at record speed (2008-12-02 09:38)

President-elect Barack Obama is choosing his Cabinet at record speed putting together a "team of rivals" from all sides of the political spectrum.

David Sirota argues that the real rivalry here is not between the Cabinet members but between Obama's campaign promises and his future policy decisions. He rightly notes that Obama must be given the chance to deliver on his promise that all policy emanates from him and not from his Cabinet and staff.

Having competing voices is generally a good thing as long as friction does not interfere with results. Few presidents have entered office with the kinds of tests Obama is facing. Possibly only Franklin Delano Roosevelt inherited a more battered economy, and the country is mired in two wars that are part of a larger "war on terrorism." The broader geopolitical situation is heating up with the possibility of a new strategic arms race also around the corner.

Here are the new members of the national security team:

Hillary Clinton , will serve as Secretary of State , arguably the highest profile position next to the president.

Secretary Robert Gates , the current Secretary of Defense, will continue to serve and presumably will have no problem implementing a 16-month pullout from Iraq, if that policy is indeed implemented.

Eric Holder, former Deputy Attorney General and a former United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, will serve as Attorney General . He will be the first African American to serve in that post.

Janet Napolitano , Governor and former U.S. Attorney for Arizona , will serve as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security . The first woman to serve in this position that was just created during the Bush administration.

Dr. Susan E. Rice, a Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Obama for America campaign, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution , and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, will serve as Ambassador to the United Nations .

General Jim Jones, USMC (Ret), former Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander of the United States European Command , will serve as National Security Advisor .



Washington Post **Obama Dazzles Dems and GOP with Cabinet Picks**

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

President-elect Barack Obama has named half of his Cabinet members at record speed and earned positive reviews from both sides of the political aisle.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Deskapahendri (2008-12-02 20:34:00)
Good Luck Obama

Obama to nominate Richardson for Commerce (2008-12-03 07:53)

President-elect Barack Obama will announce Gov. Bill Richardson as his nominee for secretary of commerce, according to Democratic sources.

Richardson is one of the highest profile Latino elected officials in the country. During the campaign, Obama energetically courted the Latino vote and won that segment handily during the general election. Richardson endorsed Obama over Hillary Clinton during the primary season.

Richardson has excellent credentials but his nomination will attract some controversy from Chinese Americans, who objected to his handling of the Wen Ho Lee spy case when Richardson was secretary of energy during the Clinton administration. Some Chinese Americans are protesting the nomination demanding a formal apology from Richardson.

[EMBED]



Malaysia Star **Obama to nominate Richardson for Cabinet**

CNN International - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – President-elect Barack Obama will announce New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his pick for secretary of commerce on Wednesday, a Democratic source told CNN.

Obama to name Richardson for Commerce on Wednesday The Associated Press

Chinese-American activists oppose any Bill Richardson cabinet ... San Jose Mercury News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Comment: Obama's first setback? (2008-12-03 10:17)

The Democrats loss in the runoff election for the Georgia senate seat reminds us of how fast things can turn in the world of politics. Bill Clinton enjoyed success very similar to Barack Obama when he won the first time against George H.W. Bush, but within two years Democrats loss control of Congress.

Clinton inherited a recession from the elder Bush, but Obama is bequeathed with the deepest recession and most severe financial crisis since the Great Depression. Clinton had to deal with a hostile Iraq but not quite a "war," while Obama has two wars and a potential arms race beckoning on the horizon.

Fortunately, Americans tend to back Democrats during hard financial times. FDR served longer than any other president throughout the Great Depression. Although the stock market bottomed out and unemployment reached its lowest level well into his first term, Americans did not lose faith in him or the Democrats.

There is no doubt that Obama is losing confidence fastest among progressives, the base of the Democratic Party that strongly supported him especially during the early part of his presidential campaign. In turn, the same actions that are bothering progressives or liberals are attracting more conservative-leaning folk toward him and his administration.

Can he keep his extraordinary movement together without the progressive "change" element? Will those small donations continue to roll in, and the volunteers still show up when called? Hopefully, the loss in Georgia is not a sign of things to come down the road.

Although the liberal commentators have been generally disappointed with Obama's cabinet and staff picks, at least his commitment to green energy transition appears as strong as ever despite the market turbulence. That alone may be enough to keep the "bleeding hearts" on his side.



BBC News Low Turnout Saves Chambliss; **Progressives** Look Ahead - Dec 03

Beyond Chron, CA - 6 hours ago

Saxby Chambliss gets to remain in Washington for another six years, and I fully expect him to play "obstructionist" in the US Senate to **Obama's progressive ...**

For Republicans, a Welcome and Resounding Win in Georgia National Review Online Blogs

12/3: The GOP Comeback Begins? National Journal

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Oprah show in DC during inauguration (2008-12-04 13:03)

Oprah Winfrey will host her television show The Oprah Winfrey Show live from the nation's capital on Jan. 19, the day before Barack Obama is inaugurated into office. Another show is also being arranged for Jan. 21.

Winfrey, who strongly supported Obama during his campaign, will broadcast the show from the Kennedy Center Opera House.

"That's where I'm going to be," told "Access Hollywood," the television show that first reported the news. "That's the place to be."

No word on who will be making guest appearances on the show during the DC broadcasts.



Washington Post **Oprah** Winfrey to host TV show from Washington

The Associated Press - 55 minutes ago

Winfrey will host a live episode of "The **Oprah** Winfrey Show" from the Kennedy Center Opera House on Jan. 19, the day before Barack **Obama** takes the ...

Oprah Brings Her Show to DC New York Times

Ms. Winfrey goes to Washington: **Oprah** to take show to DC for ... New York Daily News

Oprah Winfrey mum on **Obama** inauguration bash Chicago Sun-Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



obamaquest (2008-12-04 21:01:00)

The crowd estimates are in the millions. Being in DC for the days surrounding the inauguration itself will be an event worth remembering

Should Obama take the lead? (2008-12-05 08:02)

With the economy staggering, there are many who believe that President-elect Barack Obama should be more out front on the issues i.e., the automobile industry bailout .

Obama has said that there is only one president at a time, and indeed he is not yet invested with the executive powers of office. He needs to show a degree of respect for the president currently in office although Congressman Barney Frank may have had it right suggesting that currently there are no presidents in sight.

However, with all the "emergency" bailout money being requested by different sectors, it may be a good thing for someone to actually sit back and analyze the situation. No one doubts the seriousness of the crisis. The bad economic reports continue to roll out. For example, just today we found out that job losses in November totaled 533000, the worse drop since 1974.

The last great financial bailout in this country was during the savings & loan crisis in the late 1980s and that cost a total of only \$160 billion. The current mess, when all the goodies are counted, has cost so far around \$9 trillion, and no one now suggests that the payouts are nearly ending.

Many of us can remember the Chrysler bailout, but today all of the Big Three are facing bankruptcy and unlike 1979, things look a lot bleaker for American automakers. They failed to read the tea leaves and design cars for the future. Clearly this is not an ordinary cyclical downturn. The current crisis is the result of continuously failing to address structural and policy problems by rolling them over with new debt spending. Supply-side economics, deregulated markets, and tax breaks for the super rich do not work, but no one is really ready to admit that yet by making the required changes.

It is now almost normal to see triple digit changes in the stock market, and drops of several hundred points are now hardly shocking as they have become so common. The volatility demonstrates the uncertainty, fear and the simple fact that most experts have no idea what is going on. They don't know that the system they have believed in for the

last few decades – the easy money system of rampant speculation, leveraging and fixed hedge fund markets for the wealthy – does not work.

So, it probably is a good idea for the incoming administration to sit back a bit and analyze the problem from a distance. Let the current officials in power do their job and fulfill their responsibility. Figure out what really needs to be done and then develop a program to implement starting on Jan. 20.

We've already seen how rushing to the rescue of doomsday-warning corporations with trillions of taxpayer dollars does not work.



Washington Post **November job losses steepest since 1974**

Reuters - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Employers axed payrolls by a shocking 533000 in November for the weakest performance in 34 years, government data on Friday showed, as the recession inflicted a mounting toll on the US labor market.

533000 US jobs lost in November Bizjournals.com

Employers cut 533K jobs in Nov., most in 34 years The Associated Press



Seattle Post Intelligencer **Automakers Take Plea for Bailout to House Committee**

Washington Post - 2 hours ago

By Lori Montgomery and Kendra Marr The chief executives of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford will take their plea for a rescue package to the House of Representatives today, appearing with the president of the United Auto Workers before a key ...

Ahead of the Bell: Auto execs head to the House MSN Money

Auto bailout could be tied to gov't-run overhaul The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Thomasjaz (2008-12-07 21:19:00)

The Government should consider issuing \$10,000 incentive checks for those who will be willing to buy a car from Chrysler, Ford or Chevrolet. The checks can be used only as down payment for a new car from those companies. If used they could sell 2.5 million cars and solve their cash flow problems, keep employees working and be able to pay the government back via taxes etc...

Barack Obama pledges massive infrastructure works (2008-12-06 14:34)

Barack Obama promised today on his YouTube/radio address to implement a public works program unseen since the federal highway system was built in the 1950s.

Obama's pledge comes after bleak unemployment figures were released for November, the worse since 1974.

The new plan would include spending on roads, bridges, schools, sewer systems, mass transit, electric grids, dams and other public utilities. He also promised to improve schools, expand broadband coverage, make government buildings more energy efficient and improve information technology at medical facilities. Estimates of costs for the plan have ranged from about \$400 billion to more than \$1 trillion. As Obama has been less committal on rolling back the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, we have to assume that the program will be funded through deficit spending.



CBS News **Obama** Pledges Public Works on a Vast Scale

New York Times, United States - 2 hours ago

By PETER BAKER and JOHN M. BRODER WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack **Obama** committed Saturday to the largest public works construction program since the ...

Obama Offers Highlights of His Economic Stimulus Plan Washington Post

Obama pledges to rebuild US BBC News

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.





Barack Obama to nominate Eric Shinseki for Veterans Affairs (2008-12-06 18:18)

Democratic sources said Saturday that President-elect Barack Obama will nominate retired Gen. Eric Shinseki as secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Shinseki gained attention when he testified that many more troops were needed to pacify Iraq. His statements drew anger from administration officials and Shinseki retired a few months later.

Obama is expected to formally announce the nomination of the highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran on Sunday – Pearl Harbor Day. Shinseki is a Japanese-American from Hawai'i and is Obama's first Asian or Pacific Islander selected for a Cabinet position.

 This Feb. 25, 2003 file photo shows Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, then Chief of Staff of the United States Army, attends the Senate Armed Services committee hearing regarding the Defense Authorization Request for 2004 on Capitol Hill in Washington. U.S. President-elect Barack Obama has selected retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki to be VA secretary according to Democratic officials, Saturday Dec. 6, 2008. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, File)

 Then U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki reviews the guard of honour in New Delhi February 3, 2003. President-elect Barack Obama has selected Shinseki to be the next secretary of veterans affairs, Democratic sources said. REUTERS/B Mathur



ABC News **Obama takes Shinseki for Cabinet, sources say**

CNN - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – President-elect Barack Obama will nominate retired Gen. Eric Shinseki to be secretary of Veterans Affairs, two Democratic sources said Saturday.

Obama picks general to lead veterans affairs Reuters

Dem officials: Shinseki to be named VA secretary The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



hernadi-key (2008-12-07 10:58:00)

information for you..

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Obama, Ideas and Solutions !!!

As I'm sure that you have noticed, Hillary Clinton is trying to sell us this lie that Obama doesn't have any ideas or solutions and yet in the same breath claims he has stolen her ideas. She can't have it both ways. Which one is it Mrs. Clinton? And if they both has similar ideas, which they do then what is the difference between the two?

He represents true change, a fresh face, an inspirational orator, a more electable candidate who has cross-over appeal into the Independent voting block as well as some Republicans. He seeks to run a mostly positive campaign while she has been and continues to try and drag him into fights and mud-slinging. It looks desperate and nothing turns off an electorate more than playing dirty and negative attacks...

read more...

<http://usa-barackobama.blogspot.com/>

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Video: Obama to announce Shinseki nomination in Chicago (2008-12-07 07:41)

[EMBED]

An Associated Press video on the news that President-elect Barack Obama will announce retired Gen. Eric Shinseki as his secretary of Veterans Affairs today at a news conference in Chicago.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Supreme Court dismisses Obama eligibility appeal (2008-12-08 09:34)

Today, the Supreme Court knocked down an appeal challenging President-elect Barack Obama's eligibility to serve as president. This silly case was based on the unsubstantiated claim that Obama was a British subject at birth.

The groups backing the case though kept appealing bringing it all the way up to the Supreme Court.

[EMBED]



Current World News **Court won't review Obama's eligibility to serve**

Baltimore Sun - 1 hour ago

By Tim Jones | Tribune correspondent UPDATE: The Supreme Court has turned down an emergency appeal from a New Jersey man who says President-elect Barack Obama is ineligible to be president because he was a British subject at birth.

Court: No review of Obama's eligibility to serve The Associated Press

Supreme Court Declines to Hear Obama Nationality Case Washington Post

Internet drives Barack **Obama** birth-certificate battle Chicago Tribune

Obama citizenship challenge goes nowhere Boston Globe

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's Job Plan (2008-12-08 12:56)

Looking over Barack Obama's job creation plan , one might get the idea that mostly the information technology, green technology and civil engineering sectors will benefit. The president-elect has promised to build and repair roads and bridges; expand broadband coverage and digital processing; and transition more toward clean, renewable energy.

There will, though, be many industries "downstream" that will benefit from the massive public works program. Obviously when there is infrastructure in one area, for example, the small businesses in that area will get a boost from the new business. Workers will patronize the local eateries, coffee shops, grocery stores, etc. Suppliers of raw materials will get new business as well as the transportation companies that move things from one place to another. The money cycles through the economy.

One important aspect in building all the new infrastructure is to make it as environment and energy-friendly as possible from the start. One can repair roads in the ordinary way, or in a way that will decrease traffic congestion and maintenance costs, thus reducing energy consumption.

Properly planning such modernization puts good minds to work, minds that will be needed to tackle the challenges of the future.

Now if the government plans to pay for the whole thing by borrowing that could be counter-productive in the end. We are now in a credit crunch, nay, a period of peak credit . When the government borrows money it has to come from somewhere.

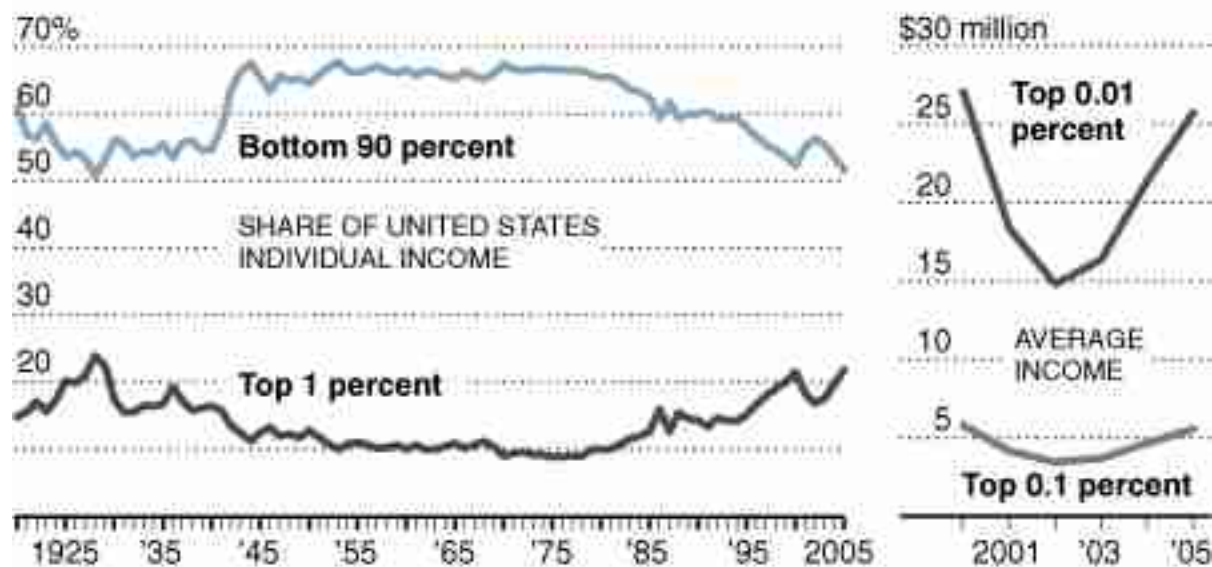
When Japan bailed out its banks, it was fortunate that Japanese citizens had saved the equivalent of tens of trillions of U.S. dollars in cash that they could loan to the government at extremely low interest rates. They basically sacrificed future dividends on a good chunk of their life savings to help out the governments. Now, Americans have a very low savings rate and we you balance it out against their debt, they actually have a negative savings rate.

So money borrowed by the U.S. government will to a very significant extent suck up some of the money that could be available to commercial credit markets. And of course the government, i.e. the taxpayer, has to eventually pay back the money with interest.

Therefore, the way to pay for the program is to increase taxes. Now, I don't mean increasing taxes for the poor or middle class. You can actually lower the taxes for these groups, as Obama promised to do, and still increase taxes overall significantly. This is due to the stark disparity in wealth and income that exists in America. According to the latest statistics, 10 % of the population owns 71 % of the wealth, and the top 1 % controlled 38 %. The income disparity is equally wide.

The Roaring 2000s

After a brief dip in the early 2000s because of a decline in the stock market, the share of the nation's income that goes to those at the top has begun to climb again, hitting a level not seen since the 1920s.



Sources: Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics, and Emmanuel Saez, University of California, Berkeley, from I.R.S. data

The New York Times

Of course, the federal government taxes the income and dividends of individuals. A lot of the wealth of the richest Americans sits in useless hedge funds and derivatives designed to simply increase the wealth of said individuals who endlessly hoard money.

One can tax these fat cats without in any way endangering their lifestyle. They will still be billionaires or high-end multi-millionaires.

The advantages of taxing rich folks include but are not limited to: 1) No need to pay the money back much less pay any interest rates, 2) Money languishing in complex, unregulated securities is recycled into the economy 3) Wealth disparity is lessened.

Wealth inequality is eased because when the government borrows money, it mainly borrows from rich folks and big financial banks and institutions. A good deal of the money also comes from pension funds, state governments and the like, but hardly any comes from ordinary people. However, in the end the payback is more evenly distributed among populace in general because of the present tax structure i.e., money flows from the poorer masses into those haywire securities of the super-rich.

Now since incomes taxes were reimposed in 1913, the tax rate on the richest Americans has generally been much

higher due to the very inequality mentioned. Here is a chart showing the tax rates for the top bracket of taxpayers since 1913. Notice that for most of the time, that rate has been more than the current 30 percent. Other than at the very beginning when the tax rates were eased in, the top marginal rates have been lower than today only twice – before the Great Depression and before the recession of the early 1990s.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Rod Blagojevich arrested for trying to sell Obama senate seat (2008-12-09 08:40)

A strange story today involving President-elect Barack Obama's vacant senate seat.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his chief of staff John Harris were arrested on charges that they tried to sell Obama's senate seat. Reminiscent of the old Chicago politics that earned the city a reputation for corruption.

Feds take Gov. Blagojevich into custody

Chicago Tribune - 35 minutes ago

Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his chief of staff John Harris were arrested today by FBI agents on federal corruption charges. Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his chief of staff John Harris were arrested today by FBI agents on federal corruption charges.

Illinois Governor Arrested on Federal Charges Wall Street Journal

Illinois Gov. Blagojevich in custody on charges Reuters

✕ Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich attends a press conference at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, in February 2008. The governor of Illinois was arrested Tuesday for conspiring to sell an appointment to president-elect Barack Obama's recently open US senate seat, prosecutors said.(AFP/File/Amanda Rivkin)

✖ Seen in file photos are Tammy Duckworth, a disabled Iraq war veteran and currently the Illinois veteran affairs director, U.S. Reps. Jesse Jackson Jr., of Chicago and Jan Schakowsky, of Evanston, Ill., Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Illinois Senate President Emil Jones. The five have been mentioned as potential candidate to fill the seat of President-elect Barack Obama who said Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008, he would resign from the Senate effective Sunday, Nov. 16. Under state law, Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich will name Obama's replacement he said he expects to make a decision by year's end, (AP Photo/Staff)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Obama distances himself from Blagojevich scandal (2008-12-09 20:52)

Barack Obama tried to distance himself from the fiasco in his home state where the governor was arrested today for attempting to "sell" Obama's open senate seat.

"I had no contact with the governor or his office, and so I was not aware of what was happening," Obama told reporters as he emerged from a meeting with former vice president

Al Gore yesterday. "It is a sad day for Illinois. Beyond that, I don't think it's appropriate to comment."

Nothing in the indictment of Gov. Rod Blagojevich implicates Obama in the alleged activity.

Indeed some of Obama's efforts to push ethics reforms indirectly led to the wire-tapping of Blagojevich's phones.

Illinois state lawmakers have called an emergency session to select a successor for Obama's senate seat.

Obama Tries to Stay Above the Hometown Fray

Washington Post, United States - 29 minutes ago

John McCain and the GOP this year – sought to tie him to Antoin "Tony" Rezko, a onetime friend and **fundraiser** who was convicted last year of fraud and ...

State lawmakers prepare to decide **Obama** replacement

Rockford Register Star, IL - 38 minutes ago

Political **fundraiser** Antoin "Tony" Rezko, who raised money for the campaigns of both Blagojevich and **Obama**, is awaiting sentencing after being convicted of ...

Obama's Intervention Indirectly Led to Case

New York Times, United States - 49 minutes ago

Mr. Rezko was among the first to contribute to Mr. **Obama**'s earliest State Senate race, in 1995, and later became a major **fund-raiser** for his campaign for ...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Obama foes jump on new Chicago scandal (2008-12-10 09:18)

The anti-Obama crowd is at it again possibly stung by their failure to have the president-elect removed in the eligibility case.

Now they are trying to smear Obama due to his association with the indicted Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich. Although Obama has not been accused of any wrongdoing, his foes will naturally try to link him with Chicago's famed reputation for corruption. Obviously though, this is something that could hurt the Democratic Party, especially as they hold most of the power in Washington DC, and the adage goes, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So they will have to try and get ahead of this to ease public perceptions.



Times Online Arrest Fuels Anti-**Obama** Crowd

Washington Post, United States - 1 hour ago

There's nothing like a little Guilt-by-Association Red Meat to bring the anti-**Obama** crowd back to the comment boards. Hundreds of posts have found their way ...

Obama's Intervention for Ethics Bill Indirectly Led to Case ... New York Times

Text of **Obama's** first newspaper interview as president-elect Los Angeles Times

Illinois governor scandal

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Marty (2008-12-10 17:32:00)

Being in the circles he's in, if he's going to get in trouble for any associations he may have, he's doomed. The same would go for any of us. Fortunately not everyone is as.. intelligently challenged.. and the ones with some of the accusations.

Barack Obama calls on gov. to resign, nominates Daschle (2008-12-11 09:49)

President-elect Barack Obama called again on Gov. Rod Blagojevich to resign following his indictment on corruption charges during a press conference Thursday in Chicago. Obama said that he never met with Blagojevich regarding his replacement and that his team was investigating whether any staff members had contact with the governor on this subject.

Obama also announced today that former Senator Tom Daschle will be his pick for secretary of Health and Human Services. Daschle was one of Obama's earliest high-profile supporters and is a leading figure in the movement toward universal health care and healthcare reform.

Obama is also expected to announce Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu as his Energy secretary and former New Jersey environmental protection commissioner Lisa Jackson as head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

[EMBED]

Video: Obama: Resign Blagojevich CBS **Blagojevich's Promise to Mom: 'I'll Never Take Bribes'**

ABC News - 2 hours ago

By RHONDA SCHWARTZ and KATE MCCARTHY Governor Rod Blagojevich promised his mother he would always be honest and "never take bribes," according to a 2006 video posted online by the Democratic National Committee.

Illinois First Lady Faces Scrutiny New York Times



USA Today Obama to Name Former Lawmaker as Health Secretary

Voice of America - 1 hour ago

By VOA News US President-elect Barack Obama will name former Senator Tom Daschle as his secretary of health and human services during a press conference Thursday in Chicago.

Obama taps Nobel physicist for energy secretary: reports AFP

Nobel Physicist Chosen To Be Energy Secretary Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama moves to dispell senate seat doubts (2008-12-12 09:11)

President-elect Barack Obama is moving quickly to reveal any possible staff contacts with Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich about his former senate seat.

"What I want to do," Obama said during a Washington news conference, "is gather all the facts about any staff contacts that I might — may have — that may have taken place between the transition office and the governor's office.

"But what I'm absolutely certain about is that our office had no involvement in any deal-making around my Senate seat. That I'm absolutely certain of."

With so many problems facing his transition team from the economy to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama needs to detach himself from this scandal as quickly as possible.

[EMBED]

Riz Khan - Blagojevich's turndown - Dec 11 - Part 1



WELT ONLINE Obama to Air Any Staff Talks About Senate Seat

New York Times - 1 hour ago

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich went to his office in Chicago on Thursday to work on the state budget, while state lawmakers worked on ways to remove him from office.

Could Candidates in Blagojevich Case Face Charges? ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Kate Day (2008-12-12 18:08:00)

"Doubts" will be the operative word around Barack Obama for the next four years. Kevin Price of the Price of Business and (www.BizPlusBlog.com) points out that, although the media loves Obama, they love a good scandal more. That is how we will remember Obama.

(2008-12-12 21:47)

Jermaine Crawford from HBO's "The Wire"

H.O.P.E Inaugural Youth Ball (2008-12-12 23:31)

Jermaine Crawford from HBO's "The Wire" is organizing the H.O.P.E. Inaugural Youth Ball in Washington DC on Jan. 17 at Trinity College.

Proceeds from the ball will go to Nation Network for Youth (NN4y), an organization that helps homeless teens.

The National Network is committed to ensuring that opportunities for growth and development be available to youth everywhere. The youth we work with face greater odds due to abuse and neglect, homelessness, lack of resources, community prejudice, differing abilities and other life challenges. For that reason, we are working to create a community of agencies, people and resources to champion the needs of the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

The group organizing the event also has hotel rooms in Gaithersburg, Maryland not far from DC as lodging is hard to come by at this time.

According to Jermaine, there will be some very "special" guests at the ball.

You need tickets for this event:

www.hopeinauguralball.com and email info@hopeinauguralball.com

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats Go Down on the Auto Bailout (2008-12-13 09:15)



Not sure if this is about left or center. Generally the left promotes carbon caps and lower emissions, and most climate change deniers have been on the far right. Gov. Schwarzenegger in California has really gone against the current in his party on pushing a green agenda.

Now Obama has also scolded Detroit during the campaign for not retooling and building efficient, clean vehicles for the future. Maybe he should step in and insist that the Big Three develop a concrete plan to build cars that will sell in the future marketplace and meet reasonable environmental standards.

The traditional Democrats are no doubt scare of the union bosses but this is not really about left or center. The phenomenon is found among officials of all parties who make decisions based on how it impacts their future political ambitions.

About Job Cuts

[Read the Article at HuffingtonPost](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Scott (2008-12-13 22:00:00)

It will be interesting to see if Obama can bring the two sides together to produce an auto bailout plan that the majority can live with.

[Barack Obama Site](#)

World hopes Obama brings change on climate change (2008-12-14 08:22)

The United States has been one of the "bad guys" on the world stage when it comes to dealing with climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The country, which produces a good chunk of the world's carbon emissions, failed to sign on to the Kyoto Protocol almost undermining global efforts on tackling climate change.

However, with the administration of President George W. Bush on the way out, there is new hope that President-elect Barack Obama will bring a new direction in U.S. environmental policy.

Obama's new "green team" headed by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu as secretary of energy and Carol M. Browner in the newly-created position of White House coordinator of energy and climate policy are more in line with Al Gore-like thinking. Same goes for Lisa P. Jackson, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The president-elect supports cutting emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, and favors an international cap-and-trade system.

X

Telegraph.co.uk

Next **Climate** Summit May Turn on Rich Nations' Approach to Poor Ones

Washington Post, United States - 10 hours ago

David Waskow, **climate change** program director for Oxfam America, said delegates hoping to finalize an agreement next December in Copenhagen recognize that ...

Disdain for Bush, hope for **Obama** on **climate change** AFP



ABC News

Gore Talks **Climate Change** With **Obama** and Biden

Washington Post, United States - Dec 10, 2008

President-elect Barack **Obama** met with former vice president Al Gore in Chicago on Tuesday to discuss **climate change**, declaring after the meeting, ...

Gore has **Obama's** ear on **climate change** San Francisco Chronicle

Obama says **climate change** a matter of national security

Reuters



WELT ONLINE

Title, but Unclear Power, for a New **Climate** Czar

New York Times, United States - Dec 12, 2008

Long an acolyte of Al Gore, she has called **climate change** "the greatest challenge ever faced" and echoed Mr. **Obama's** call for a cap-and-trade system to ...

Obama's Environment Team Takes Shape Living on the Earth



Washington Post

- Concern for **Climate Change** Defines Energy Dept. Nominee

Washington Post, United States - Dec 11, 2008

By Steven Mufson The man tapped to be the next secretary of energy, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu, recently compared the danger of **climate change** ...

Editorial: Chu Will **Change** Direction istockAnalyst.com (press release)

Obama's Carbon Busters Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bad times leave Obama unscathed (2008-12-14 19:29)

While most Washington politicians from both major parties appear abhorred in public opinion polls , President-elect Barack Obama is as popular as ever.

The public is not linking Obama with the faltering economy and nearly 8 in 10 people surveyed are satisfied with his performance in the transition period.

Although most of those interviewed were doubtful that Obama could fulfill most of his campaign promises, they thought the president-elect was intelligent and had a positive attitude of him. Obama seems to stand out as someone people trust to look out for their general interests.

People also had a favorable view of Obama's Cabinet and staff picks. They especially liked his choice of Hillary Clinton as secretary of state, and believe that he is making a good effort toward bipartisanship in keeping on Robert M. Gates as secretary of defense.

Michelle Obama also enjoyed high favorable ratings as the incoming First Lady with 54 percent having a positive view of her. About 69 percent thought that Obama was a positive role model for women.



AFP FOX News **Poll**: Most Americans Positive About **Obama's** Cabinet

FOXNews - Dec 11, 2008

A recent FOX News **poll** finds that many Americans are pleased with President-elect Barack **Obama's** cabinet picks. Most Americans rate President-elect Barack ...

Obama Gets Strong Support in **Poll** Wall Street Journal

Obama transition going well, most in AP **poll** say The Associated Press

Obama enjoys strong public support as president-elect Los Angeles Times

WSJ/NBC News **Poll**: Michelle **Obama** on the Rise Wall Street Journal Blogs

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Seo Infotech (2008-12-14 23:06:00)

Obama is great.

Barack Obama

(2008-12-15 09:32)

President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden are planning a pre-inaugural celebration with their families in Baltimore on Jan. 17.

Obama will start the day in Philadelphia and the event will focus on the inaugural theme of "Renewing America's Promise" - featuring cities with historic connections to that theme: Philadelphia, where the nation's founders signed

1358

the Declaration of Independence; Baltimore, "where the country's independence was defended,"; and Washington, the nation's capital.

"As part of the most open and accessible inauguration in history, we hope to include as many Americans as possible who wish to participate but can't be in Washington," Emmett S. Beliveau, director of the inaugural committee, said in a statement. "These events will allow us to do that while honoring the rich history and tradition of previous inaugural journeys."



Telegraph.co.uk **Obama, Biden to hold event in Baltimore before inauguration**

Baltimore Sun - 1 hour ago

By Paul West | paul.west@baltsun.com WASHINGTON - President-elect Barack Obama, Vice President-elect Joe Biden and their families will hold a pre-inaugural event in Baltimore on Saturday, Jan. 17, as they travel to Washington by train for the ...

Obama, Biden Inauguration road show to hit Philadelphia ... Chicago Sun-Times

Obamas & Bidens to Arrive By Train to Kick-Off Inauguration Weekend ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Electors officially elect Barack Obama (2008-12-15 15:36)

Presidential electors gathering in state capitols across the country have formally elected Barack Obama with more than the required 270 electoral votes needed to win, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Obama takes office Jan. 20, becoming the nation's first black president.

Obama Formally Elected as Nation's 44th President

FOXNews - 51 minutes ago

Electors gather to formally elect Barack Obama as the country's 44th president, in a largely ceremonial procedure. AP RICHMOND, Va.

It's official: McCain gets Utah's five electoral votes Salt Lake Tribune

Virginia Electors Cast Votes for Barack Obama Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Internal review clears Obama in Blagojevich case (2008-12-15 15:44)

Barack Obama 's internal review cleared the president-elect and his team of any inappropriate contacts with Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich regarding Obama's vacated senate seat.

However, an internal review is unlikely to stop Obama's foes from attempting to link him with the scandal. The group Media Matters has been tracking the attempts in the media to taint Obama with the Blagojevich brush. Sean Hannity from Fox News has made a big deal about the number of times Obama's name is mentioned in the complaint against Blagojevich. However, this is perfectly understandable as the whole case revolves around Obama's old senate seat! [EMBED]

Obama's team OK's contacts with Gov. Blagojevich, but won't share ...

Christian Science Monitor - 1 hour ago

By David Cook | 12.15.08 President-elect Barack Obama's team has studied the transition staff's contacts with Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and found nothing improper.

Obama team: Review shows no inappropriate contact The Associated Press

Video: Ill. House Speaker Launches Impeachment Panel AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama picks conservationist Salazar as Interior secretary (2008-12-16 09:21)

President-elect Barack Obama will choose Sen. Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) as his secretary of the Interior, Democratic sources said Monday.

Salazar is the first Democratic senator from the state of Colorado and he supported Obama vigorously during the campaign. He has also been a strong defender of the environment throughout his career.

He opposed new oil drilling in Colorado, however he was not the first choice of all environmental groups with many rallying instead for Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.). Some environmentalists view Salazar as more of a "centrist."

However other environmental groups expressed satisfaction with the Salazar pick.

"Ken Salazar's solid record as a supporter of renewable energy suggests he is well prepared for one of the fundamental challenges facing the Department of Interior: the need for solid stewardship of federal lands while allowing those lands to be part of the climate solution by hosting massive new renewable energy developments," said Seth Kaplan, a vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation, in an e-mail message published by the New York Times.



Seattle Post Intelligencer **Obama** picks **Salazar** as Interior secretary

Los Angeles Times, CA - 8 hours ago

Two senior Democrats said Monday that **Obama** would name **Salazar**, a Latino, to the post, rounding out an energy and environmental policy team announced at a ...

CO-Senate: **Salazar** Departure Creates GOP Opportunity Washington Post

Ken **Salazar**—Barack **Obama's** interior secretary nominee Chicago Tribune

A Conservationist for the Interior Dept. New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Arne Duncan picked as education secretary (2008-12-16 09:34)

Democratic sources say that President-elect Barack Obama has chosen

Arne Duncan to serve as education secretary . Duncan currently runs the Chicago school district. Duncan has been credited with improving performance in Chicago's troubled school system and is known for some controversial techniques including paying students for good grades.

According to the Washington Post, Duncan "graduated from Harvard University, where he was co-captain of the basketball team, and he played professional basketball in Australia from 1987 to 1991. He returned to Chicago to direct the Ariel Education Initiative, which creates educational opportunities for youths on the South Side."

Obama made it clear during his campaign that he was determined to reform failing schools in America's urban areas and Duncan has the resume for this kind of task.

[EMBED]



The Age **Obama** Picks Chicago's Schools Chief For Cabinet

Washington Post, United States - 12 hours ago

Ken **Salazar** (D-Colo.) to serve as secretary of the interior later this week, all but finalizing his selections for major Cabinet posts. **Obama** plans to ...

Transition: Arne Duncan's day MSNBC

Chicago schools chief to be chosen as education secretary, sources say

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Chicago sleaze doesn't stick to Obama (2008-12-16 13:18)

When people think of Chicago they often conjure up visions of gangsters during the roaring 20s, people rising from the dead to vote in elections and political machines run by gambling kingpins.

Chicago also gained fame for its radicalism with links to groups ranging from the Weather Underground to the Nation of Islam.

During the campaign, Obama's opponents tried to link him with the sordid underbelly of the Windy City or with its radical elements, but without much success.

Chicago's political culture became linked with corruption back in the 1870s, when gambling tavern owner Michael

Cassius McDonald became active in politics. It is said that McDonald first coined the phrase "There's a sucker born every minute."

However, the city is best known for its underground links through the personality of Al Capone, whose gangs shot up the city with machine guns during the Prohibition era.

Maybe partly because of Chicago, the state of Illinois has had more than its share of problems with corrupt governors. Otto Kerner (Blotto Otto; 1960-1968), Gov. Dan Walker (1972-1976) and Gov. George Ryan (1998-2002) preceded Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Yet, the grime of Chicago's underworld has not been sticking to President-elect Obama whose teflon coating might make even cause Bill Clinton to envy. Both Clinton and Obama were charged with guilt by association, although in Clinton's case it was a more intimate type of association.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Time names Barack Obama "Person of the Year" (2008-12-17 09:13)

Time magazine announced that President-elect Barack Obama is their "Person of the Year" for 2008. Last year, Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin won the award.

In other news, Obama selected former Gov. Tom Vilsack of Iowa as his agriculture secretary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama to name Cabinet members, take vacation (2008-12-19 08:11)

President-elect Barack Obama is set to name Rod Kirk as U.S. trade representative and Ray LaHood as transportation secretary at a press conference Friday in Chicago.

Obama will leave Saturday for a holiday vacation in Hawai'i where his sister Maya and her family live.

The president-elect may also announce other undisclosed choices today.

Rod Kirk is the mayor of Dallas, while LaHood is a Republican who served in the House of Representatives for 14 years. LaHood is the second Republican nominated for Obama's Cabinet.

Yesterday, Obama appointed Rep. Hilda Solis of California as labor secretary.

Recently, Obama has been very active in the press holding daily news conferences. Although he has said previously that there is only one president at a time, the media is now appears focused on his moves more than those of outgoing president, George W. Bush.

X

MLive.com **Obama poised to name new Cabinet members**

The Associated Press - 2 hours ago

CHICAGO (AP) - President-elect Barack Obama is nearly finished choosing his Cabinet as he prepares to leave Saturday on a holiday vacation in his native Hawaii.

From wire reports Baltimore Sun

In Transition Labor Secretary, US Trade Representative Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama praises auto bailout plan (2008-12-19 20:13)

President-elect Barack Obama praised President George W. Bush 's plan to bailout U.S. automobile companies and called on the carmakers to make needed changes.

Bush said his \$17 billion package was necessary to prevent a collapse of the U.S. auto industry.

"Under ordinary economic circumstances, I would say this is the price that failed companies must pay," Bush said.

"But these are not ordinary circumstances. In the midst of a financial crisis and a recession, allowing the US auto industry to collapse is not a responsible course of action."

Obama agreed that the bailout was "necessary step."

"With the short-term assistance provided by this package, the auto companies must bring all their stakeholders together... to make the hard choices necessary to achieve long-term viability," Obama said.

During the campaign, Obama called on the U.S. auto industry to change their direction and work toward making cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars .

Obama urges carmakers to 'reform'

BBC News - 36 minutes ago

US President-elect Barack Obama has welcomed the multi-billion dollar aid package for US carmakers, but said the industry faces some "hard decisions".



Video: CEO Confident GM Can Meet Loan Conditions AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

Loans give GM, Chrysler 3 months Detroit Free Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Slave's daughter who voted for Obama dies at 110 (2008-12-20 09:05)

Amanda Roberts Jones, the slave's daughter who voted for Barack Obama, the first black- American President, has died two days after her 110th birthday.

"She lived awful long," Jones' granddaughter Brenda Baker was quoted as saying by the "Austin American-Statesman."

"It was a full life, and her faith in God helped her live a long life."

NDTV.com 110-year-old Bastrop woman dies 2 days after birthday

Houston Chronicle, United States - 9 hours ago

Amanda Roberts Jones of Cedar Creek, a community near Bastrop, had just received a new dress that she was looking forward to wearing on Sunday to a birthday ...

Slave's daughter who voted for **Obama** dead at age 110 Hindustan Times

Amanda Jones was Central Texas' oldest voter Austin American-Statesman

Slave's daughter **Amanda** Jones dies at 110 KFDA

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama ups job creation to 3 million after more bad news (2008-12-20 21:34)

President-elect Barack Obama said Saturday that he would increase his goal of new jobs to 3 million after more bad economic news was released.

Democratic officials told CNN that forecasts predict up to 4 million jobs will be lost over the next year and that the unemployment rate should rise to more than 9 percent.

Another sign of the ailing economy came from California where Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency with the state's revenues falling more drastically than anyone expected.

The big question again though is where all the money will come from. Will Obama raise taxes or increase the deficit?

X

CTV.ca Obama ups jobs goal to 3 million on bad economic news

CNN - 58 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – President-elect Barack Obama has decided to increase his goal for creating new jobs after receiving economic forecasts that suggest the economy is in worse shape than had been predicted, two Democratic officials told CNN.

Obama Expands Economic Recovery Plan to Create 3 Million Jobs Bloomberg

Obama Expands Economic Goals as Outlook Dims Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Rihanna scheduled for Obama inauguration benefit (2008-12-21 09:45)

Grammy winning performer Rihanna will appear at the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama for a benefit to feed millions of children.

Rihanna will perform at the Recording Industry Association of America's Presidential Inauguration Charity Ball to benefit Feeding America, America's largest hunger relief organization.

"Rihanna's always willing to help out – she's a good girl," a source told People magazine.

Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America, says, "We could not be happier that Rihanna will be performing

at the Inauguration charity ball to benefit Feeding America.”



Extra TV **Rihanna** Rocking DC for **Obama's** Inauguration

Extra TV - 42 minutes ago

Grammy winner **Rihanna** is scheduled to perform in the nation's capital during the inauguration of Barack **Obama** – and help feed millions of people in need ...

Rihanna Ready to Rock **Obama** Inaugural Ball People Magazine

Rihanna To Feed Her Career/Homeless People With Gala Actress Archives

Rihanna Will Rock **Obama** Inaugural Ball eparsa Magazine

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama arrives in Hawai'i for holidays (2008-12-21 19:51)

President-elect Barack Obama arrived Hawai'i for a 10-day holiday vacation.

Obama and his family landed in Oahu aboard a privately-chartered United Airlines 767 on Saturday for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Sources say that Obama's family together with his sister Maya's family will hold a private funeral service for his grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, while they are in Hawaii. Dunham died on the eve of her grandson's historic election win after a bout with cancer.

The media reports that family friends of the Obamas, traveling separately, will join the family during their Hawaiian vacation. The Associated Press reports that the Obamas have rented a beach home in the quiet town of Kailua near Honolulu.

Obama boards plane for 12-day Hawaii vacation

People's Daily Online - 58 minutes ago

US President-elect Barack Obama gets out of his SUV before boarding a plane for a 12-day Hawaii vacation at O'Hare airport in Chicago, December 20, 2008.

Obamas rent beach home in low-key Hawaii town The Associated Press

Obama Arrives For Christmas In Hawaii MSNBC

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



fadum (2008-12-21 20:55:00)

Obama has a great mind, hope he will help latin american countries.

visit this site.

<http://www.fiec.espol.edu.ec>

Debate over Obama stimulus plan (2008-12-22 10:11)

There's been some comparison in the media of President-elect Barack Obama's stimulus plan and the Japanese efforts to address their own mortgage and bank meltdown in the 1990s, and also FDR's response during the Great Depression. Media Matters has a good summary of the discussion.

The fact that both sides are taking raising taxes out of the picture shows there really is no debate going on. Both sides defer to "supply-side" economics. Really you can not compare the situation to FDR's time because taxes on the rich were raised very sharply to lift the country out of the Great Depression.

Also, there really is not a real debate on either a stimulus plan or further corporate bailouts. We all know there will be more of both, probably a whole lot more. It's just a matter of how it all gets payed for. We have seen how in nearly every case, the government will break down in the end and come through with the money especially in the case of corporate dole-outs.

As I've mentioned before, one really can not compare the current situation to that faced by Japan, which had very large personal savings in reserve to pay for their deficit spending. Japanese citizens and businesses lent their government trillions at nearly zero interest rates to save failing Japanese banks and to jumpstart the economy.

In the U.S., they have a net negative savings rate. Much of the money will have to come from abroad, or they can try to print money out of thin air like Zimbabwe or the Weimar Republic.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's 'green dream team' (2008-12-22 15:21)

I'm glad that President-elect Barack Obama is standing firm on climate change. A lot of folks that are acting as though the current situation makes it harder to go green, but what better way to stimulate the economy than building the technology of the future.

Commenting on Obama's 'green dream team,' Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists said: "If this team can't advance strong national policy on global warming, then no one can."

"This caliber of scientists in any administration would be a major headline. But in contrast to the eight years of the Bush administration, where political appointees ran roughshod over science at a terrible cost to the truth, they stand out even more."

Obama had pledged to spend \$150 billion on green energy over 10 years, but that was before the financial crisis and his announcement of a much larger stimulus plan than originally envisioned.



WELT ONLINE Obama team primed to push climate change agenda

Reuters - 1 hour ago

By Deborah Zabarenko, Environment Correspondent WASHINGTON, Dec 22 (Reuters) - President-elect Barack Obama's new "green dream team" is committed to battling climate change and ready to push for big policy reforms, in stark contrast with the Bush ...

Obama weighs a supersized stimulus plan Christian Science Monitor

President-Elect Obama Tries to Build a Results-Oriented Administration U.S. News & World Report

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-12-23 18:38:00)

It's good to see that Obama wants to pursue energy reform, but will he have sufficient support for nuclear power?

(2008-12-22 20:28)

A big snag in the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama is his selection of Minister Rick Warren to give the inaugural invocation.

GLBT groups



Boston Globe

Obama Takes Heat for Inaugural Speaker

FOXNews - 3 hours ago

By Brit Hume Democratic Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts is upset with President-elect Obama's selection of the prominent Evangelical Minister Rick Warren to give the inaugural invocation.

Rick Warren and Barack Obama's inaugural address USA Today

Rick Warren's biggest critics: other evangelicals The Associated Press

Obama in top shape, photos reveal (2008-12-23 14:16)

Paparazzi, both professionals and amateurs, are snapping photos of vacationing President-elect Barack Obama and his family, particularly from a public beach in front on the Obama's rented vacation home.



Leisure-Time for Leaders

A photographer on Hawaii's Kailua Beach snapped this photo of a shirtless President-elect Barack Obama Dec. 21, 2008. Obama, on vacation with his family, regularly clocks 90-minute workouts, as his chiseled abs and chest attest. (www.bauergriffinonline.com and abcnews.go.com)

Obama may be the fittest president ever with a vigorous daily workout that he rarely if ever misses.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-12-24 04:05:00)

getting ready for the biggest party in history?

www.bushbyebyeparty.com

ATF (2008-12-25 11:34:00)

Regarding Obama's decision to have Rick Warren for his inauguration. Regarding gay marriage Rick Warren doesn't seem to understand that we live in a secular country and that our founding fathers drafted the Constitution a certain way for very profound reasons. One of them is freedom for all. We have the full faith and credit clause, the equal protection clause, and most of all Loving v. Virginia which said that marriage is a fundamental right and that the state has to pass a very high bar in order to EVER curtail a fundamental right of any of its citizenry. He doesn't know this and he doesn't understand this because he is not well versed in the Constitution. Not many people are. Therefore, he should shut his mouth on this issue, unless and UNTIL he has studied the Constitution and all of the case law regarding the Constitution on this issue. Therefore I recommend that Pres elect Obama choose Desmond Tutu instead. And instead of showing evangelical republicans that he wants to include them, I think by choosing the Rev. Desmond Tutu he is showing the WORLD that America has turned a page in its foreign relations.

<http://olderadultslikeme.blogspot.com/>

Obama Holiday Messages (2008-12-25 11:47)

Both Barack and Michelle Obama released holiday greetings to the public and especially, in presidential tradition, to troops serving overseas.

Now more than ever, we must rededicate ourselves to the notion that we share a common destiny as Americans – that I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper. Now, we must all do our part to serve one another; to seek new ideas and new innovation; and to start a new chapter for our great country.

[EMBED]

Michelle Obama's message

This holiday season, the grassroots movement you helped build can make a big difference for those in need.

I hope you will join me in supporting your favorite charity or contributing to causes that are especially meaningful to me and my family.

While many of us will spend the holidays counting our blessings and sharing dinner with loved ones, millions of people around the country won't be so fortunate. Donating to your local food bank will help provide a holiday meal to people in your community who can't afford one.

Talking with the families of deployed troops was one of the most rewarding experiences I had during the campaign. Giving to Operation USO Care Package is a great way to send members of our military stationed around the world a reminder that someone back home is thinking of them.

This is a time to celebrate our blessings, the new year, and a new era for our country. But it's also a time to come together on behalf of those who need our help.

Do what you can to help today by locating your local food bank and giving your support.

Or send a care package to an American in uniform.

Thank you for all that you do and have a very happy holiday season,

Michelle

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-12-25 21:05:00)

If anyone is interested in an Obama poster please click here

vania (2008-12-26 10:31:00)

i m forom brasil i lives sao paulo sp congratulatio ns mr obama today i m jail mr chairman globo tv mr roberto irineu marinho and lili marinho adress globo tv rue doctor chucuri zaidan 46 morumbo at sao paulo email globointernacional@redeglobotv.com do you like help please send representative tv globo

Obama family enjoys warm Hawaiian Christmas (2008-12-26 08:20)

President-elect Barack Obama spent a quiet Christmas in warm Hawai'i far away from the bitter cold plaguing Chicago and Washington, DC.

Obama was taped earlier playing golf in short pants and a polo shirt. It may be that Oahu will be Obama's version of the family ranch or family estate used for vacations by a number of recent presidents.

Obama Celebrates Christmas With Family in Hawaii

Bloomberg - 2 hours ago

By Kim Chipman Dec. 25 (Bloomberg) – President-elect Barack Obama spent a quiet Christmas day opening gifts with family and friends at an oceanfront rental home in Hawaii and later visited a nearby Marine Corps base.

Obama Visits Marine Corps Base for Christmas ABC News

Obama settles into military role Reuters

Video: Barack Obama In Hawaii CBS 

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/v/TLRcS8CYhcc>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hollywood and Silicon Valley help fund inauguration (2008-12-26 19:58)

The array of balls and other events scheduled for the inauguration is not paid for with taxpayer money.

Private contributors shell out money in exchange for VIP tickets and special recognition at the historic event.

Here is a list of Hollywood stars and high-tech executives who have contributed to the presidential inauguration fund.

The maximum donation is \$50,000.

Steven Spielberg and his wife, Kate – \$50,000 each.

Halle Berry – \$50,000

Jamie Foxx – \$50,000

Sharon Stone– \$50,000

Google CEO Eric Schmidt – \$25,000

Google co-founder Larry Page – \$25,000

Google vice president Marissa Mayer – \$25,000

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and wife Connie – \$50,000 each.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson – \$25,000

Five members of George Soros family contributed a total of \$250,000. The list of fundraisers is detailed on the Presidential Inaugural Committee website. <http://pic2009.org/donors>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama workout, power outage (2008-12-27 17:32)

Ok, you know the Obama news is slow when the main headline is Obama's daily gym workout and the power outage on Oahu.

[EMBED] Video: Oahu Hit by Blackout, Power Coming Back AssociatedPress

X

Reuters **Obama's** Vacation: Power Returns to Oahu

Washington Post, United States - 6 hours ago

Shortly thereafter, street lights outside **Obama's** home went dark and it appeared that his home did not have power. On Friday night, Honolulu Mayor Ruffalo ...

Power cut left **Obama**, family in dark for 12 hours Reuters

Obama's Hawaii retreat lost power for 11 hours The Associated Press

Alert the Media: **Obama** Has Made a Break for It New York Times

Obama visits gym on morning after power outage The Associated Press

[EMBED] Obamas in Hawai'i

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Republican candidate release racist song (2008-12-28 18:02)

Chip Saltsman, a candidate for chair of the Republican Party (RNC), sent a CD with a version of the "Barack the Magic Negro" song to fellow RNC members.

The CD featuring comedian Paul Shanklin's version of the song was part of a group of "light-hearted political parodies" sent to other RNC members apparently as part of his campaign strategy.

Another sign of a political party in deep decline.



CTV.ca Racist "Barack the **Magic Negro**" song hurts GOP

Kansas City Star, MO - 5 hours ago

By Yael T. Abouhalkah, Kansas City Star Editorial Page columnist The national GOP loses again with a new controversy over the "Barack the **Magic Negro**" song. ...

GOP Blasts '**Magic Negro**' CD Distributed by Top Republican Operative

FOXNews

GOP Receives Obama Parody to Mixed Reviews New York Times

Republicans play '**Magic Negro**' card - bravo Examiner.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama treads lightly on Gaza fighting (2008-12-29 11:11)

President-elect Barack Obama is keeping out of the Gaza crisis not wanting to interfere with the Bush administration. However, Obama's comments seemed to support Israel's actions in Gaza.

If the crisis endures much longer, it may be yet another major problem when Obama takes office on Jan. 20.

Many Muslims around the world have high expectations for Obama hoping that he will bring significant change from past administrations who have tended to side very strongly with Israel.



guardian.co.uk **Obama Defers to Bush, for Now, on Gaza Crisis**

New York Times - 46 minutes ago

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and HELENE COOPER WASHINGTON - When President-elect Barack Obama went to Israel in July - to the very town, in fact, whose repeated shelling culminated in this weekend's new fighting in Gaza - he all but endorsed the punishing ...



Video: White House Blames Hamas for New Violence AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

ANALYSIS-Gaza offensive set to boost Israel's Livni Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Should Obama be thinking about world problems on his vacation? (2008-12-30 06:34)

Probably not much. Of course, if an emergency comes up when he has taken office, then he would need to come back on duty.

However vacation's are meant as diversions. To allow the mind and body to rest and recuperate. By taking one's minds off problems for a bit, one often is able to come to a better solution in the end. And people will be expecting a myriad of solutions to tough problems when Obama becomes president in a few weeks.

The president-elect spend the day Monday on the golf course where he was reminded of his bowling fiasco in Pennsylvania during the presidential campaign.



The Miami Herald **Obama can't shake the bowling jokes**

The Associated Press - 4 hours ago

KAILUA, Hawaii (AP) - President-elect Barack Obama thought he'd put the bowling jokes behind him. Not likely. On the golf course Monday, a woman waiting at the 18th green reminded Obama of his disastrous bowling during the presidential campaign.



Video: Obama Mania Hits Fever Pitch CBS

Barack Obama's golf score N/A; But the course crowd gives him a 10

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2008-12-30 19:58:00)

The fact that Obama is golfing and hanging out at his 9 million dollar vacation estate while people are losing their jobs and homeless for the holidays shows how out of touch he is. All through his campaign he talked about "those with golden parachutes" and how they need to "spread the wealth." He is creating his own golden parachute and it's called the "Tax Payer" His new nicknames are "Mr. President GQ" and "god of the Glistening Pecs"...I am sure our enemies are trembling in their boots.

Mike (2008-12-31 14:11:00)

Give the man a break. It needs to be a secure location. It's not his home. It's for vacation. He's going to need to be in a centered state of mind for all he's going to be facing soon. Right now the bill's on him. Once he's in D.C. We'll be footing the bill and I'm sure we'll get our money's worth.

Gov. Blagojevich names Burris for Obama seat (2008-12-30 13:19)

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has appointed former state Attorney General Roland Burris to fill President-elect Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat.

Burris is the third African American U.S. senator to serve from Illinois and the only black U.S. senator currently in office.

At the Chicago press conference, Blagojevich asked people not to associate Burris with the controversy over the governor's alleged corrupt dealings in choosing Obama's successor.



Washington Post RAW DATA: Roland W. **Burris** Biography

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

Former Illinois Attorney General Roland **Burris**, shown here, is reportedly Gov. Rod Blagojevich's pick to succeed Barack Obama in the Senate. ...

Reports: Blagojevich to Appoint **Burris** to Replace Obama Washington Post

Blagojevich to Name **Burris** to Obama's Senate Seat Bloomberg

GOP Blames Democrats For **Burris** Selection CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama seeks public guidance on health care (2008-12-31 08:16)

President-elect Barack Obama's transition team will look for ideas in public health forums around the country. Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Obama's choice for secretary of health and human services, will lead Obama's effort to reform the public health system.

Some 8500 meetings have been held since Dec. 15, and the Obama team will post information gleaned from these events on the transition website, change.gov.



MLive.com **Obama** team seeks public input on health care

The Associated Press - 5 hours ago

So President-elect Barack **Obama's** transition team has set up a new round of public sessions it hopes will translate into real changes this time. ...

Santa Cruz residents send **Obama** health care ideas San Jose Mercury News

Obama's Health Care Team Pumps Message CBS News

Little Town Beseeches **Obama's** Health Chief New York Times



Health and Human Services Secretary-designate Tom Daschle, right, listens during his meeting with seniors to discuss health care, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at the Congress Heights Wellness Center in Washington. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Congress, **Obama** face difficult **health** care reform choices

Palladium-Item, IN - 3 hours ago

... NEWS SERVICE • December 31, 2008 WASHINGTON – Congress and the **Obama** administration have many options in the effort to slow **health** care spending. ...

Study analyzes major **health**-insurance policy options The Tennessean

Time to deliver on healthcare promises Dickinson Press

Federal Study Concludes **Health** Insurance Reform Could Create ... Workforce Management

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Renatta Maria (2008-12-31 10:40:00)

I think public health is priority input!

Here in Brazil does not have medicine for all and the old people die in the line!

The government speech that the is making improvements for something but nothing change.

I hope wen I be old I have money to pay for my health plan !

If we not have we will stay in the line waiting for a favor!

- Itis very sad and humiliating ...

We never know tomorrow!

I lost my father like that and he was a great artist!

-The world's laps.

Happy New Years '09

Renatta Maria.

3. 2009


3.1 January

Obama's set to leave Hawai'i for Capital hotel suite (2009-01-01 13:09)

President-elect Barack Obama and his family are set to fly to Washington DC late Thursday ending their vacation in the Aloha State.

Obama was seen signing autographs on New Year's Day after his workout routine at the Marine Corps Base gym in Kailua. The Obamas have been vacationing in Hawai'i for the last 12 days.

The family will stay at the Hay Adams Hotel, so that their girls can start school Monday at Washington's private Sidwell Friends School. The White House will not be available until after the inauguration on Jan. 20.

 US President-elect Barack Obama autographs a t-shirt after working out at the Semper Fit gym on Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kailua, Hawaii on January 1, 2009. REUTERS/Hugh Gentry (UNITED STATES)



New York Daily News



Obama set to return to Chicago after Hawaii rest

The Associated Press - 39 minutes ago

KAILUA, Hawaii (AP) — President-elect Barack **Obama** is bidding his native Hawaii "aloha" after a 12-day vacation. **Obama**, wife Michelle and his two young ...

Storied Washington hotel will briefly be home for the **Obama** family Boston Globe

Washington hotel to be **Obama** family's temporary 'suite' home TopNews

Home Sweet Hotel Suite for Obamas in the Capital New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama ready for China space race (2009-01-01 19:03)

In order to meet the challenge of a robust Chinese space program, President-elect Barack Obama is expected to explore launching NASA payloads with military rockets.

Beijing is known to be working toward landing astronauts on the Moon and is expected to attempt a docking in space in 2010 in preparation for the mission. American defense analysts fear that China's new space abilities may threaten American military and other space assets.

The U.S. will have to rent Russian launch vehicles until NASA launches its new Orion rocket probably sometime in

2015, five years after the retirement of the present launch vehicle.



ABC News **Obama Moves to Counter China in Space With Pentagon-NASA Link**

Bloomberg - 1 hour ago

By Demian McLean Jan. 2 (Bloomberg) – President-elect Barack Obama will probably tear down long-standing barriers between the US's civilian and military space programs to speed up a mission to the moon amid the prospect of a new space race with China.



Video: NASA Gives Graphic Details of Columbia Deaths AssociatedPress

[EMBED] No way crew could survive Straits Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Inauguration may be very special (2009-01-02 18:11)

It may be an American presidential inauguration unlike any since the dawn of mass media. President-elect Barack Obama of course is the first African American to ascend to the highest office in the country.

However, there are also many other factors that could make this inauguration special. Few incoming presidents, maybe none, have been so loved overseas as Barack Obama. While Obama may face challenges unlike any since FDR, he also has as much goodwill in many corners as any other president.

Young people love Obama. Not just young voters, but little kids. I became acutely aware of this when my four-year-old nephew shouted "Obama" upon seeing the president-elect on the evening news. And there were many pre-voting age kids who got actively involved in supporting Obama during the campaign.

The president-elect has also been called "Hollywood's President," due to his strong support in the entertainment community. It will be interesting to see if Hollywood pulls out the stops for Obama during his inauguration.

News reports indicate that a record 60,000 people have volunteered to work at various inauguration events.



Dressregistry.com invites party goers to post the designer, color and length of their outfit chosen for the dozens of January 20 inauguration bashes in Washington, DC.(DressRegistry.com)



Jakarta Post **Inauguration Feels Special to Many in Washington**

New York Times - 49 minutes ago

By IAN URBINA WASHINGTON - Presidents come and go from this city. Hosting inaugurations is nothing new. But for residents here, over 92 percent of whom voted for President-elect Barack Obama, his inauguration this month is special.



Video: WH Laughs Off Obama Arrival CBS

[EMBED]

Chicago to take over at the White House guardian.co.uk



China Daily



Barack **Obama Inauguration**

Hartford Courant, United States - 1 hour ago

Here's what we know: Activities surrounding the **inauguration** will stretch over four days and will start with a welcome event for the public and end with a ...

Record-high number of people volunteer for **Obama Inauguration** Xinhua

Obamabilia For Sale New York Times

60K apply as **Obama inauguration** volunteers MarketWatch (press release)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama fired up and ready to go with diverse Cabinet (2009-01-03 08:22)

While some progressives have been whining, maybe justifiably in some cases, over some of President-elect Barack Obama's Cabinet and inauguration choices, one area where he gets few complaints is his diversity picks.

Obama promised the most diverse Cabinet and staff in history and he has largely delivered on that promise.

Although neither Cabinet or staff come close to representing the population of major minority groups, Obama has still reached farther than his predecessors. One difficulty of course is that the past history of under-representation makes it difficult to find equivalent candidates among minority groups. One way that Obama has worked around this is to look for experts rather than political allies to fill certain positions. For example, Stephen Chu is someone who most political junkies have never heard of, but he is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist with past interest in sustainable energy, and thus it's difficult to argue with his qualifications as secretary of energy.

Among Obama's top choices include two Republicans, five women, three Hispanics, three African Americans, two Asian Americans, and one Arab American. One openly LGBT person, Nancy Sutley, was appointed as head of the

White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Many women were in fact surprised by the number and level of Obama's Cabinet picks including Hillary Clinton as secretary of State and Janet Napolitano as Homeland Security chief.

Latinos were originally discouraged when Bill Richardson was passed over for secretary of State landing secretary of Commerce instead. But with a total of three high-level Latino Cabinet picks and other staff choices, Obama has exceeded his predecessors both in quantity and quality.

Obama gears up to hit ground running with diverse cabinet pick

Thaindian.com, Thailand - Jan 1, 2009

The incoming president's **cabinet** picks are **diverse**. They include two Republicans, five women, three Hispanics, three African Americans, two Asian Americans ...

Maria Elena Salinas: **Obama's** Latino factor

Merced Sun-Star, CA - 6 hours ago

After all, **Obama** did promise to have one of the most **diverse** presidential **Cabinets** in history. It turns out that's one promise the president-elect is ...



CTV.ca

Obama's Diverse Cabinet Lacks Members From Business Community

Bloomberg - Dec 19, 2008

20 (Bloomberg) – President-elect Barack **Obama's Cabinet** is notable for its **diversity**, experience in government, and absence of people from the business ...

Obama's Cabinet: A Diverse Center-Left Team Assembled Quickly CQPolitics.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Mike (2009-01-03 20:26:00)

This is a good reminder of the preparation and vision that went into forming the cabinet, especially in appointing a diverse team. Well done!

Obama and timing of Gaza invasion (2009-01-04 17:10)

Watching the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza it's hard not to wonder whether the timing of this has anything to do with the incoming administration of President-elect Barack Obama .

Obama's reaction to invasion of this type is considered something of an unknown in Israel as compared to the "in the bag" reaction expected of outgoing President George W. Bush. Therefore, one has to wonder if Israel is not 'making hay while the sun shines,' i.e. before Obama takes office.

There are many progressives too who wonder how Obama will treat this part of the world with some suggesting that there will be little change from past administrations. However, Israel's doubt seems to indicate that not all the right signs are coming from Obama's side. Polls had shown that Israelis preferred both Hillary Clinton and John McCain over Obama during the presidential campaign.

Analysis: Israeli pride at a cost

BBC News - 47 minutes ago

By Jeremy Bowen The men and machines have moved into Gaza, and throughout the day the sounds of what they were doing rumbled back into Israel.



Video: Israeli Forces Split Gaza, Surround Biggest City AssociatedPress

[EMBED] FM: We're allowing more aid into Gaza Jerusalem Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama tax cut is offering to Republicans (2009-01-05 20:43)

President-elect Barack Obama's \$300 billion tax cut looks like an effort to get House Republicans to buy his new economic stimulus plan.

The tax cuts will be part of an overall package estimated to cost \$800 billion that will include government infrastructure projects to create new jobs.

Obama might also be preparing Republicans for an eventual proposal to hike taxes for the rich. Even California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican and self-proclaimed 'fiscal conservative' is proposing steep tax hikes because of the state's economic and fiscal woes. Without some new revenues, the federal government will be awash in red ink, and may have trouble actually raising some of the funds required.



BBC News Obama Pitches Stimulus Package to House Republicans

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

By Paul Kane, Lori Montgomery and Shailagh Murray President-elect Barack Obama arrived on Capitol Hill yesterday and immediately set to work reassuring skeptical Republicans about his massive economic stimulus package – part of a campaign that earned ...



Video: Obama: Economy 'bad and Getting Worse' AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama Pushes for Stimulus on Capitol Hill New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Justice picks show new direction (2009-01-06 08:32)

Barack Obama again showed that change is on the way with his choices for the Justice Department . The new selections show that Obama is intent on reversing what are seen as infringements on civil protections by the Bush administration.

Obama's picked Indiana University law professor Dawn Johnsen to head the Office of Legal Counsel, the same group that helped expand George W. Bush's national security powers.

Johnsen has hammered "Bush's corruption of our American ideals," and about Bush "that in fighting the war on terror, he is not bound by the laws Congress has enacted." Other Obama nominations are:

David Ogden, a top Justice Department official during the Clinton administration, as deputy attorney general, the No. 2 figure under Attorney General-designate Eric Holder.

Elena Kagan, the dean of the Harvard University Law School and a former Clinton White House aide, as solicitor general.

Tom Perrelli, counsel to Clinton Attorney General Janet Reno from 1997 to 1999, as the associate attorney general who oversees civil matters.



USA Today **Obama Names 4 for Justice Jobs in Break From Bush Path**

New York Times - 33 minutes ago

By ERIC LICHTBLAU WASHINGTON - President-elect Barack Obama reached back to the Clinton administration again Monday to fill four top Justice Department posts with lawyers whose records signal a sharp break from the legal policies of the last eight ...

Key Justice nominees rooted in academia USA Today

Fierce Bush Critic Picked for Justice Post Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Isn't the Only One Being Inaugurated on Jan. 20th (2009-01-06 08:58)



I think it is a great idea to inaugurate the people as stakeholders in the "new era of citizen responsibility and engagement."

While many observers have been watching Obama's every move since the historic election win, we cannot forget the message of change was primarily that we must be the change that we are seeking. Obama and others can only help us get there.

Of course, we need to hold the president-elect and other elected officials to their word. They need to be fully accountable, but we also need to be proactive and constructive. In addition to demanding that the government fix our communities, we need to do something on our own to help in this process like volunteering for civic work.

Altruism is contagious as most people like that warm fuzzy feeling that results from caring, but there also may be some survival impulses involved. This would be a higher instinct - knowing that the same "safety net" would be there for yourself or your loved ones if the need should arise.

About Obama's Inauguration

Read the Article at HuffingtonPost

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dr. Sanjay Gupta for Surgeon General (2009-01-06 13:58)

Sources say that President-elect Barack Obama has offered the job of Surgeon General to Dr. Sanjay Gupta, of CNN and CBS fame. If this pans out, it would be one of my favorite of Obama's nominations yet.

I've been a fan of Dr. Gupta for years mostly watching him on CNN where he appears as a capable journalist in addition to his profession as a neurosurgeon.

Gupta is now in the vetting process and has reportedly considered the financial impact of giving up his high-paying media jobs, but it is expected that he will accept the position in a few days. The sources said that Gupta had made his desire for the position known to the Obama transition team. Obama met with Gupta for two hours in November and also with Health and Human Services secretary Tom Daschle.

He is not a stranger to Washington having served as a Whitehouse fellow in the 1990s. Gupta is of Indian and Pakistani heritage.

Obama Wants Journalist for Surgeon General

Washington Post, United States - 1 hour ago

By Howard Kurtz President-elect Barack **Obama** has offered the job of surgeon general to Sanjay **Gupta**, the neurosurgeon and correspondent for CNN and CBS, ...

Other TV Stars for The Cabinet? Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Obama creates Performance Officer position (2009-01-07 09:36)

President-elect Barack Obama has created the new position of chief performance officer to oversee the national budget.

Obama has resigned himself to trillion dollar deficits over at least the next few years indicating a reluctance to raise taxes on higher tax brackets.

Sources said Obama has chosen Nancy Killefer, a director at McKinsey & Company and a former assistant secretary of the treasury in the Bill Clinton administration. Obama is expected to announce his choice Wednesday morning. [EMBED]

President-elect Barack Obama vowed Tuesday to bar lawmakers' pet projects from his massive economic stimulus plan and to bring unprecedented accountability to federal spending. (Jan. 6) 

KGET 17 **Obama** Appoints **Performance** Officer

Washington Post, United States - 2 hours ago

By Michael D. Shear President-elect Barack **Obama** has selected a top management consultant to serve as the country's chief **performance** officer, ...

Obama names Killefer to **performance** job The Associated Press

Obama targets budget waste Boston Globe

Obama to tap new position, then meet with predecessors CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

David Dzidzikashvili (2009-01-09 17:49:00)

I hope by creating new government posts we are not creating additional layer of bureaucracy on top of existing large bureaucracy, but at the same time there is a need to monitor performance and have a good eye on performance.

Barack Obama wants new economic direction (2009-01-08 12:19)

President-elect Barack Obama rallied support for his new economic stimulus plan suggesting that the costly program and its associated debt is necessary to stave off even deeper woes for the economy.

"It is time to set a new course for this economy, and that change must begin now," he said at an address on the economy at George Mason University, near Washington.

Obama's plan that is projected to cost between \$800 billion and \$1 trillion comes on more bad employment news showing the 2008 was the worse year for job losses since 1945.

"For every day we wait or point fingers or drag our feet, more Americans will lose their jobs," Obama said. "More families will lose their savings. More dreams will be deferred and denied."

"I don't believe it's too late to change course, but it will be if we don't take dramatic action as soon as possible."



Reuters

Congress, **Obama** focus on economy

Report

Jan 06, 2009

X

FOXNews **Obama** calls for new economic course

USA Today - 1 hour ago

1382

By Charles Dharapak, AP By Douglas Stanglin, USA TODAY WASHINGTON - President-elect Barack Obama sought to rally support for a new economic stimulus package by acknowledging that his plan will be expensive and painful, but warning that inaction could ...

Lawmakers and Financial Experts Question Obama's Tax Cuts Washington Post

Obama to Warn of Costs of Inaction on the Economy New York Times



Boston Globe US December **Job** Cuts Quadruple From Year Ago, Challenger Says

Bloomberg - Jan 7, 2009

For all of 2008, employers announced 1.22 million **job** cuts, the most in five years. The economy is caught in a self-perpetuating cycle of rising **job losses** ...

Some bad omens for key **jobs** report CNN

National business news briefs: Lots of **job** cuts Kansas City Star

Financial service hit hard by Dec. **job** cuts Boston Globe

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama names Tim Kaine as DNC chair (2009-01-08 15:32)

Barack Obama named Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as the new Democratic National Committee chair to replace Howard Dean.

Kaine was an early and strong supporter of Obama during the primary and general election.

"We're in a strong position to rebuild a Democratic Party committed to these principles because of the outstanding work of its current chairman, Howard Dean," said Obama of the person many think paved the way for Obama's network and movement.

"For nearly four years, Howard has served our party and our nation as a visionary and effective leader. He launched a 50-state strategy that made Democrats competitive in places they had not been in years, working with my chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, to give Democrats a majority in the House for the first time in over a decade."

Of Kaine, Obama said: "Tim and I share a philosophy. It's a pragmatic, progressive philosophy that was at the heart of my campaign and will be at the heart of this administration. It's a philosophy that measures the strength of an idea not by whether it's Republican or Democrat, but whether it can actually solve a problem and make a difference in people's lives. Tim knows that breaking free of the old orthodoxies and reaching across party lines isn't just a way to build a Democratic Party that's more open and inclusive; it's a way to achieve progress for all Americans. "

[EMBED]



Boston Globe **Obama Names Kaine DNC Chairman**

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA: (joined in progress) ... we would build a movement for change. With the support of ordinary men and women who gave whatever time and money they could spare, we did just that.

Obama taps Kaine as new face of Dems Boston Globe

Obama appears with new DNC chief The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama to meet Mexico's Felipe Calderon (2009-01-08 21:54)

Illinois House Impeaches Blagojevich (2009-01-09 12:03)

The Illinois House of Representatives voted 114-1 on Friday to impeach Gov. Rod

Blagojevich for attempting to sell President-elect Barack Obama 's vacated U.S. Senate seat.

Obama had called for Blagojevich to resign after details of the scandal were exposed. The governor refused though and eventually appointed former state attorney general Roland Burris to Obama's seat.



ABC News Illinois House Votes to Impeach Blagojevich

ABC News - 1 hour ago

By CHRIS BURY and KATE BARRETT The Illinois House of Representatives voted 114-1 on Friday to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich on corruption charges that include allegedly trying to sell the US Senate seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.



Video: Key Panel Recommends Impeaching Blagojevich AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Illinois House Impeaches Governor New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



State your change (2009-01-09 14:58)

Brandon Deroche has alerted me to an ongoing campaign on Causecast.com called "State your Change."

They are asking "celebrities, bands, activists, facebook users, etc" to express in video format the change they would like to see in the world in response to Barack Obama's call during the presidential campaign. The deadline to upload your video is Jan. 18 and if they like it they will take it to Washington for the inauguration.

Here's there promotional video:

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Inauguration will have best security ever (2009-01-09 20:51)

President-elect Barack Obama 's inauguration may draw record crowds, and unprecedented security measures are expected.

Obama's train ride from Philadelphia to Baltimore and then on to Washington will present some of the biggest headaches for the president-elect's security staff. U.S. counterterrorism officials say that there has been no intelligence indicating any specific, credible threat.

Still everything from fighter jets and helicopters to electronic jamming devices and body armor will be employed to keep the president and the inauguration crowds safe.

Obama is expected to speak behind a protective glass shield and to ride in a specially-armored limousine.

Secret Service agents have already begun surveillance at the parade route, which will be cordoned off with snipers and observation equipment stationed on rooftops and balconies during the event.

President-elect's train trip poses miles of security issues

CNN - 1 hour ago

By Jeanne Meserve and Mike M. Ahlers WASHINGTON (CNN) – President-elect Barack Obama's January 17 train trip from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Washington is intended to make the inauguration the most open and accessible in history.

Hospitals Prepare For Inauguration MSNBC

Obama to become president amid tightest security ever

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama: 90 percent of stimulus jobs from private sector (2009-01-10 10:13)

In his weekly address, President-elect Barack Obama sought to deflect criticism that his economic stimulus plan would over-inflate the public sector .

Obama said that 90 percent of the jobs created or saved by his economic package would come from the private sector.


"The jobs we create will be in businesses large and small across a wide range of industries," Mr. Obama said. "And they'll be the kind of jobs that don't just put people to work in the short term, but position our economy to lead the world in the long-term."

The Obama plan aims at creating 3.7 million new jobs – a figure that has grown from the one million jobs promised during the campaign.

Obama Says Stimulus Will Redound to Private Sector

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

By Michael A. Fletcher President-elect Barack Obama, seeking to quiet concerns that his economic stimulus package would lead to an unsustainable expansion of the public workforce, said today that 90 percent of the 3 to 4 million jobs created or saved ...

 Video: Obama Pieces Together Economic Plan AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama team boosts jobs estimate to 3.7 million USA Today

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-01-11 05:26:00)

This is an emergency-plan, a first aid. But unless the cause of the problem, the rule of a few people in great corporations (greed) is solved, the problems in economy will once again return.

The idea of a "free market" run by a few is in my eyes a disaster.

Saeed Khan Abbasi (2009-01-11 12:41:00)

Obama's plan can be a realistic remedy for the presen ailing of the US economy. Here you American and world community should know that I have presented a SEMFO Economic Plan to combat such situation. Let me see if USA or other global leaders/stakeholders avail my SEMFO Plan (www.saeedabasi.blogspot.com). I assure you and all international community that the present worst situation can be confronted but IF YOU IMPLEMENT MY SEMFO PLAN.

SAEED KHAN ABBASI (2009-01-12 00:28:00)

Mr.Obama's plan can be a realistic remedy for the present ailing US economy. Here you American and world community should know that I have presented a SEMFO Economic Plan to combat such situation. Let me see if USA or other global leaders/stakeholders avail my SEMFO Plan (www.saeedabasi.blogspot.com). I assure you and all international community that the present worst situation can be confronted but IF YOU IMPLEMENT MY SEMFO PLAN.In the same time I support the Obama-Biden economic plan.

Obamas' dog choice imminent (2009-01-11 18:18)

Ok, the suspense is nearly over.

President-elect Barack Obama said Sunday that the family has narrowed the search for the new puppy down to two breeds – a Portuguese Water Dog or a Labradoodle.

A Labradoodle is a mix between a Labrador Retriever and a Poodle. Both the Labrador Retriever and Portuguese Water Dog were favored at one time among seafarers and fishermen.



Times Online **Obama: Dog to be Labradoodle or Portuguese Water Dog**

Newsday - 31 minutes ago

By Mark Silva and Newsday.com | Tribune 'The Swamp' blog President-elect Barack Obama said Sunday the soon-to-be First Family's long search for a pooch is nearly over, with two breeds in a dogfight to move into the White House, the "Portugese Water ...

Breaking Obama news: Selection of First Dog is imminent Christian Science Monitor

Search for 'first pooch' narrows to two choices: Obama AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-01-12 16:23:00)

I think he should seriously consider an airdale terrior.

They are very loyal and friendly as well as superbly courageous.

They're not afraid of anything and would protect those two precious little girls with its very life.

Anonymous (2009-01-13 16:02:00)

why not a shelter pup or dog,he wants change.then rescue an animal from the pound.it will be just as loyal.

creativezazz (2009-01-15 21:35:00)

Should Obama get a labradoodle? We did. First-generation labradoodles (mom lab, dad poodle) like ours do shed some. This is a popular dog. I doubt he could get one at a shelter. Want to see puppy pics?

See my blog about our labradoodle <http://creativezazz.com/2009/01/labradoodle/>

Obama and Dems may dust it up (2009-01-12 09:42)

Despite having a strong Democratic majority in Congress, President-elect Barack Obama may have far from a smooth time getting his agenda passed.

Many might remember what happened to former president Bill Clinton who when first elected to office was in a similar situation as Obama. Clinton had to head-butt frequently with the Democrat-controlled Congress. The inefficacy probably contributed to the Democrats losing control of the legislature just two years later.

One sticking point that has arisen over Obama's stimulus plan concerns the large tax breaks included in the package. Many Democrats think that infrastructure spending would be a better idea than tax breaks. There is a strong possibility that tax breaks will be stored away by Americans looking at hard times. That's not a bad thing really, since Americans do not need to save more, but it will not "stimulate" the economy i.e. increase spending.

The problem is that the vast majority of Americans have too little savings or negative savings, while the super-rich are hoarding money in dysfunctional derivative accounts. While the government should not meltdown the derivative market, they need a "soft landing" approach to recycle the capital in these funds.



Telegraph.co.uk **Obama** bumps up against egos in Congress

Los Angeles Times, CA - 14 hours ago

BACK THEN: During the campaign, Barack **Obama's** team was tightly run and exercised complete control. His advisors are learning that approach doesn't work in ...



Video: Will Obama's Inaugural Address Become Memorable? AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Simulcast of President Barack **Obama's** Inauguration San Francisco Chronicle

What the H? President-elect Barack **Obama's** middle name shortened ...

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Bush declares emergency to help fund inauguration (2009-01-13 15:57)

President George W. Bush declared an emergency in the District of Columbia on Tuesday allowing the nation's capital to draw from federal coffers for Barack Obama's inauguration.

Bush ordered federal aid to supplement the \$15 million in federal funds already appropriated for inauguration events.

White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty requested the emergency declaration on Jan. 7 because the expected inauguration crowds exceed the city's ability to protect the public.

Extra money will come from the Federal Emergency and Management Agency budget.

X

Washington Times **Bush makes more money available for Inauguration**

The Associated Press - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (AP) - President George W. Bush on Tuesday declared an emergency in the District of Columbia that will let the nation's capital tap deeper into federal coffers for Barack Obama's inauguration.

White House declares inauguration a DC emergency Reuters

DC to get inauguration 'emergency' aid Washington Times

X

Washington Post

X

Tickets to **Obama Inauguration** Create Stir on Capitol Hill

FOXNews - 19 hours ago

People deluged Capitol Hill with calls for **inauguration** tickets almost as soon as Mr. **Obama** won the election. Some offices set up a lottery to draw for ...

Inaugural tickets elusive for some Tallahassee.com

Inauguration tickets given to lucky few Denver Post

Obama's inaugural lunch a salute to Lincoln. Five dollar foot-long? Christian Science Monitor

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Mike (2009-01-13 16:30:00)

Thanks for the post, Paul. It's going to be quite a party! Let's hope it goes smoothly.

Coolio or Erkel? (2009-01-14 09:50)

Marvel Comics is featuring President-elect Barack Obama on this weeks Amazin Spider-Man issue raising again the question of whether Obama will be the first nerd in the White House.

A recent blog in DailyKos suggests that Obama may be more into science fiction than originally thought. It has already been known for sometime that he collected comic books, favoring Spider-Man, watched Star Trek, and occassionally appeared in public resembling the TV character Erkel from Family Matters.

Erkel

Obama

Most of the time though, Obama appears fit and fashionable. Some suspect that Michelle Obama keeps her husband from fully expressing his geeky side, for his own sake.

CTV.ca

Zeb Wells - Writing the **Spider-Man/Obama** Meeting

Newsarama, NJ - 23 hours ago

And now Marvel Comics is responding to **Obama's Spider-Man** fandom by including him in a five-page back-up story in this week's Amazing **Spider-Man** #583, ...

Spiderman saves **Obama** inauguration, in comic fashion Detroit Free Press

Obama guest stars in Amazing **Spider-Man** Greensboro News Record

Obama, Spider-Man Comic Released Central Florida News 13|

The Fourth Down - Kalamazoo Gazette - MLive.com

E! Online

Local comic shop features **Spider-Man** issue starring Barack **Obama**

Annapolis Capital, MD - Jan 11, 2009

Regardless of the story line, Mr. Anderson said the mere existence of a **Spider-Man/Obama** comic is "pretty cool." He's ordered a couple hundred copies and ...

Spidey-**Obama** Comic Flying Off Shelves mediabistro.com

Spider-Man Comic Book Creating All the Buzz Washington Post

Obama and Spiderman Baltimore Sun



Obama as a Vulcan from the Star Trek genre.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



SignalofChangedotcom (2009-01-14 18:13:00)

The Signal of Change video is now on YouTube! Copy and paste this link into your browser:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWaa5w6vr8c &fmt=18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWaa5w6vr8c&fmt=18)

The video is also viewable at signalofchange.com

Please forward it to as many people as possible!

SignalofChangedotcom (2009-01-14 18:15:00)

Attention all Obama supporters!

"The Signal of Change" video is now on YouTube!

Copy and paste this link into your browser:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWaa5w6vr8c &fmt=18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWaa5w6vr8c&fmt=18)

The video is also viewable at signalofchange.com

Please forward it to as many people as possible!

Barack Obama forced to defend Treasury pick (2009-01-14 19:04)

The US Senate delayed confirmation hearings for President-elect Barack Obama 's choice for Treasury Secretary after it was disclosed he failed to pay self-employment taxes.

Timothy Geithner failed to pay taxes for wages earned while working for the International Monetary Fund from 2001 to 2004. Obama said that the mistake was embarrassing but is one that is commonly made for people working for international institutions.

Geithner is a strong advocate of rapid bailout action for Wall St.



guardian.co.uk Move along, folks. Nothing here but a tax truant **Obama** wants to ...

Los Angeles Times, CA - 2 hours ago

Anyway, what we were blogging was the news that the Senate nomination hearing for Barack **Obama's** Treasury secretary-designate Timothy Geithner has been ...



Video: Obama Defends Treasury Choice

AssociatedPress

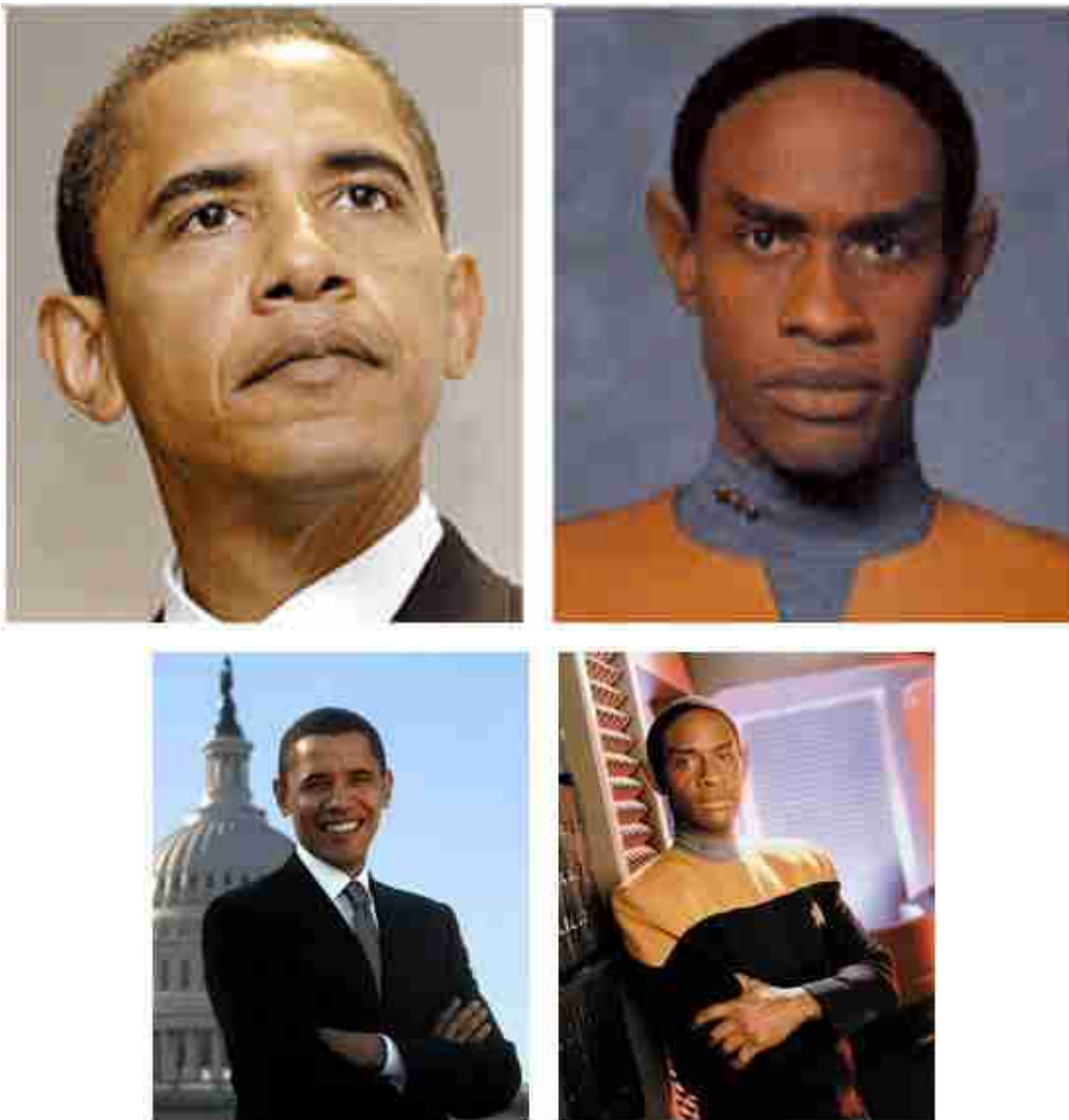
[EMBED] **Obama** sees Senate backing Geithner for Treasury Reuters

PR push for Geithner; **Obama** breaks bread at George Will's house USA Today

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Tim Russ as Barack Obama (2009-01-15 11:10)

If you had to pick a fairly well-known actor to play President-elect Barack Obama, the best choice might be Tim Russ, who made his name as the Vulcan named Tuvok on the Star Trek Voyager series.



Photos from: <http://allotherpersons.wordpress.com/2008/06/30/separated-at-birth/>
In fact, there is a running joke that Obama is actually Tim Russ in disguise!
[EMBED]

Tim Russ Rocks the Vote

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Dinero (2009-01-15 18:45:00)

I hope Obama doesn't become embroiled in sleaze stories with his associates from Chicago.
I feel some on the right will be out to catch him with sleaze stories.

Friction between Obama and Democrats building (2009-01-16 10:30)

Yes, that is Democrats not Republicans .

Think of the last two Democratic presidents - Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton - and then remember the titanic battles they had with Democratic majorities in Congress!

Many Democrats are not happy with President-elect Barack Obama 's emphasis on tax cuts in his economic stimulus plan, and they want specifics on how he will spend the \$350 billion left in the financial bailout package.

After some initial reluctance, Obama agreed to commit up to \$100 billion of the stimulus money to homeowners, but nine Democratic senators yesterday still voted against him.

Obama also had to compromise on an original ceiling of \$775 billion for the stimulus package settling for a figure so far at \$825 billion. There are some analysts who feel the eventual total will exceed \$1 trillion and not a few Democrats have been pushing in this direction.

Democrats have also negotiated a lower number for tax cuts that now stands at \$275 billion from an original \$300+ billion.

House Majority Whip James Clyburn has rallied a group to fight for earmarks, which the Obama team said would not be part of the stimulus package.

"There will be no earmarks in the stimulus. Nada. Zero. Zilch," said a spokesman for Senate leader Harry Reid.

✕

China Daily Meet Obama's Loyal Opposition

Wall Street Journal - 12 hours ago

By KIMBERLEY A. STRASSEL "I do not work for Barack Obama." Mitch McConnell, Senate minority leader? No. Ben Bernanke, Fed chief?

Obama's \$825B stimulus plan includes spending, tax cuts USA Today

Democrats roll out \$825-billion in tax cuts, spending Newsday

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

"the Dude" (2009-01-16 14:57:00)

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090116/ap_on_re_as/as_china_obama_half_brother

(2009-01-16 15:05)

Speaking in hard-hit Ohio, President-elect Barack Obama said quick action was needed to fix the economy in the near and long term.

Obama said his economic stimulus plan would create good-paying jobs – about 90 percent in the "private sector." He said that his "first job" is "to put people back to work."

Public sector jobs are actually a very quick and efficient way to put people back to work right away. With private sector contracts there is a long bidding process a lot of the money tends to go toward executive salaries and perks like corporate jet travel. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson popularly used public works programs to employ the jobless.



CBS News **Obama: 'Dramatic action' needed now to fix economy**

The Associated Press - 1 hour ago

BEDFORD HEIGHTS, Ohio (AP) - President-elect Barack Obama made a pitch for his massive economic stimulus plan at a Midwestern factory that makes wind turbine parts, saying Friday his plan would make smart investments in the country's future and create ...



Video: Obama: 'Dramatic Action' Needed to Fix Economy AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama says his 'first job' is to 'put people back to work' USA Today

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Express heading for DC (2009-01-17 11:55)

President-elect Barack Obama started from Philadelphia in the morning heading to Washington DC on an historic train ride mirroring the last leg of Abraham Lincoln's inaugural journey to the nation's capital.

Obama stopped in Wilmington, Delaware and Baltimore, Maryland before boarding the chartered train to DC with Vice President-elect Joe Biden and both of their wives and families. The Obamas will stay in Blair House, the official presidential guest house, until the inauguration.


A number of balls and galas are scheduled to take place in the capital prior to the inauguration, which is expected to attract around 2 million people.



BBC News **Obama in Delaware**

New York Times - 1 hour ago

Following is the prepared text of Barack Obama's remarks in Wilmington, Del., as provided by the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

 Video: Obama's Whistle-stop Tour Makes First Stop AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

Obama calls for 'new declaration of independence' USA Today



Seattle Post Intelligencer All Aboard the **Obama Express**!

Buzz Log, CA - 34 minutes ago

by Mike Krumboltz Barack **Obama** will soon have the toughest job on the planet. But at least he's traveling in style for his first day at the office. ...

Obama joins list of presidents arriving by train St. Augustine Record

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-01-17 18:22:00)
he is an amazing man! www.bushyourself.com

Despite general gloom, people optimistic about Obama (2009-01-18 14:46)

The sinking economy and complex international security problems are not shaking people's faith in President-elect Barack Obama .

A New York Times/CBS News Poll showed that 79 percent of people were optimistic about the next four years under Obama, although polls also show that about two-thirds of respondents think that the economic recession will last for two years or longer.

It may be that Obama's own optimism is fueling the public's confidence in him. His calm demeanor and frequent charming smile help project a positive image that inspires people's faith in his ability to handle the current crisis.

Of course, the president-elect is still in the traditional "honeymoon" period, and the current reservoir of goodwill could drain as the recession and other problems test the people's patience.

Obama himself has been trying to lower expectations every time he speaks by repeating that it took years to create the current problems, and it could take years to solve them.



Voice of America Polls show broad **optimism** about **Obama** in US

The Plain Dealer - cleveland.com, OH - 11 hours ago

President-elect Barack **Obama** is riding a powerful wave of **optimism** into the White House, with Americans confident he can turn the economy around but ...

Poll Finds Faith in **Obama**, Mixed With Patience New York Times

Local residents **optimistic** about **Obama** administration Kingsport Times News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sarah A (2009-01-19 09:30:00)

More Obama optimism for you and your readers

<http://www.findingdulcinea.com/channel/politics/Presidential-Inauguration.html>

with stories on the lincoln-obama connection and other inauguration-related features. Thanks for your thoughtful blog posts.

Barack Obama celebrates Martin Luther King Day (2009-01-19 08:54)

President-elect Barack Obama will celebrate Martin Luther King Day by volunteering in civic projects.

Obama's campaign has called on supporters to serve as volunteers on this holiday before the inauguration.

Obama will appear at an event discussing a new Web site, USAservice.org, that helps Americans organize or join community service programs.

He will then host separate dinners to honor Republican Senator John McCain, Vice President-elect Joe Biden and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The wives of the Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden - Michelle and Jill - will host a free inaugural concert for young people to honor military families. Obama has constantly stressed to his supporters that they cannot depend on change to come from government alone. For true to change to occur, it must also come from the grassroots level, for example, by ordinary people volunteering to improve their communities.

Obama on most minds as NJ marks King Day

Newsday - 1 hour ago

TRENTON, NJ (AP) _ With the nation's first black president set to take office Tuesday, Barack Obama was front and center at celebrations marking the Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama Celebrates Martin Luther King Voice of America

Most blacks say MLK's vision fulfilled, poll finds CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Christopher (2009-01-19 10:01:00)

What an amazing journey from then to now... just finished reading a look back on MLK celebrating his birthday this past Friday..<http://tinyurl.com/7x84sp>... just amazing.

Anonymous (2009-01-19 10:16:00)

I did not vote for you, but will support you as our new president. You have been a wonderful example to the youth of America. You have two beautiful daughters. You are supposed to be setting an example for America and your children. We follow by

example. Since you are in such a place to set a huge example to the youth, then you need to think seriously about your smoking habit. This would be a prime time to stop smoking and let America know that you feel strongly about good health. You could inspire many to do the same!

Ruby J. Moors

Anonymous (2009-01-19 14:15:00)

Our Warm Wishes To The New President.

The hot air blowers can be temporarily installed safely on the electric polls to warm the Lincoln Memorial Center area for millions of people and save them from catching pnemonia.

Anonymous (2009-01-20 08:38:00)

what did we get this country into this time, I know bush was bad, but wow really? Obama?

Anonymous (2009-01-20 08:54:00)

http://www.etsy.com/view_listing.php?listing_id=18089894

Wanna support Obama? This is a unique and wonderful way to do it

Anonymous (2009-01-20 12:18:00)

Heres a mashup i made with Obama and a speech about race relations i hope you enjoy and will share with your readers!

<http://www.sendspace.com/file/em1mzp>

alain.cadillac (2009-01-20 16:56:00)

<http://vuesdactu.canalblog.com/>

an ebook of a french artist ; me alain cadillac

for my hope in pdt Obama !

I have been also a social worker for 20 years and journalist and have worked wiith Foucault, Guattari (ecology) & Deleuze, and have study and worked with the philosopher JP Faye (former pdt of european research university) Paris Fr (ministère de la recherche)

Big up for Mme & M Barack Hussein OBAMA and their daughters

Barack Obama calls for era of responsibility (2009-01-19 18:39)

President-elect Barack Obama will call on Americans to usher in a new period of responsibility during his inauguration tomorrow.

"Given the crisis that we're in and the hardships that so many people are going through, we can't allow any idle hands," Obama said during an event today. "Everybody's got to be involved. Everybody's going to have to pitch in, and I think the American people are ready for that."

"I am making a commitment to you as the next president, that we are going to make government work," he told volunteers at Coolidge High. "But I can't do it by myself. Michelle can't do it by herself. Government can only do so much....If we're waiting for someone else to do something, it never gets done."

The historic inauguration of the first African American president will be covered and attended like no other. Many leaders of the civil rights movement will be present and can be expected to comment on mainstream media.




ABC News **Obama to Call for a New Era of Responsibility**

Wall Street Journal - 32 minutes ago

1396

By LAURA MECKLER and JONATHAN WEISMAN WASHINGTON – Americans poured into the nation's capital to celebrate the inauguration of the first black president with parades and parties.

 Video: From Emancipation to Inauguration AssociatedPress

[EMBED] The Real Story Of The Lincoln Bible CBS News

Video: From Emancipation to Inauguration AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



pharaon (2009-01-20 08:58:00)
<http://www.obama-inauguration-video.com>

vania (2009-01-20 10:35:00)
congratulations i m from brasil i lives americana i think this govern better bush today i m home in my city jail because mr chairman globo tv mr roberto irineu marinho he put jail adress globo tv rue doctor chucri zaidan 46 morumbi sao paulo sp do you likehelp

Philip I (2009-01-21 16:24:00)
Obama's middle name will rescue America.

The Intellectual Redneck (2009-01-24 08:16:00)
Where is the liberal outrage when Obama kills civilians?
President Bush was criticized for attacks against Al Qaeda that sometimes killed civilians. Even candidate Barack Obama was critical. Will liberals now start calling Barack Obama a murderer? I suspect they will just look the other way.

Barack Obama inaugurated 44th President of the United States (2009-01-20 12:12)

President-elect took the oath of office today becoming the 44th President of the United States. He had a bit of slip during the oath that was administered by Chief Supreme Court Justice John G. Roberts Jr., but otherwise the transition of power went smoothly.



Reuters

Obama begins historic day

Report

Jan 20, 2009

U.S. President George W. Bush greets U.S. President-elect Barack Obama (L) on the North Portico of the White House in Washington, January 20, 2009. First lady Laura Bush is second from left, and Michelle Obama is at right. REUTERS/Larry Downing

WELT ONLINE

Obama Is Sworn In as the 44th President

New York Times, United States - 5 hours ago

President Barack **Obama** is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States during a ceremony at the Capitol by Chief Justice John Roberts. ...

Video: Raw Video: Obama Goes to Church AssociatedPress

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/v/W2Uxs1TCV-E>

Obama Pledges to Restore US Prosperity, Global Prominence FOXNews

In Prelude to Inauguration, **Obama** Attends Church Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

bar paris (2009-01-20 12:55:00)

Big day for america, I hope Obama will change the world !

Free Palestian From Nazzi Israeli Terror (2009-01-20 13:40:00)

My name is khalid and im an american palestinian. When barack obama become president elect i was in tears for the change we made...so happy and excited that the man i welcomed in my home night after night on television was going to be our next president, and above all i was happy that a man whose ancestors were violated in more ways than one was going to be our next president....I WAS THRILLED THAT I WAS GOING TO BE A PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING.....I believed every word he said, and in my opinion i believed he was the man who not only was going to change washington, but also restore our respect worldwide and change the bias and deadly alliances against humanity some of the prior administrations like the bush administration had created.....When the zionist terrorist regime of israel started its murder spree on the concentration camp of gaza in december, i soon found out that barack obama was no different than george bush when it comes to palestinians...full of hatred...I started to question why barack obama had not said anything about the genocide in gaza, and that's when i started to uncover the truth behind his silence...The reality of the gaza genocide was the bush administration's parting farewell gesture and final stab in the heart to the palestinians as he handed over a corrupt washington to barack obama who is just as corrupt and biased as he is in regards to the palestinians...barack obama's silence triggered me to do some homework on him and that's when the harsh reality started to unfold...In july barack obama toured israel and supported an israeli attack on palestinians...In a news conference about a week ago, obama responded to a question about gaza and expressed his support of the zionist terrorists and their attack on the concentration camp we know as gaza...Im going to quote obama word for word "if somebody was sending rockets into my house where my two daughters sleep at night, im gonna do everything in my power to stop that and i would expect israelis to do the same thing".....Notice the bias in his remarks, he never acknowledges the fact that half of the murdered in gaza were infants, children and their mothers and entire families as well who are being murdered, all who are innocent civilians guilty of only not being able to defend themselves...The question i have for barack obama is whom invade whom...whom stole land from whom...and why don't palestinians have the right to fight for their freedom and stolen land

from illegal occupiers,PALESTINIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE BY DEFAULT AND NOT WHEN AND WHERE CHOSEN BY ZIONISTS...are you suggesting that if canada invaded our country of the United States of America that we should do nothing and live by their dictatorship,and if not,then how do you explain your double standers when it comes to the illegal occupation of palestine by zionist nazi terrorist israel...I would expect that kind of bias and continued one sided support of israel and our deadly allince from others,however i find it dispicable and disgusting that a man whos ancesters were violated and treaten unfairly and subjected to slavery and poverty by force be a suppoter of the barbaric murder of mankind....SHAME ON YOU BARACK OBAMA....SHAME ON YOU FOR THE WINK-WINK AND THE GREEN LIGHT TO ISRAEL TO CONDUCT MASS MURDER ON THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OF GAZA....SHAME ON YOU,A BLACK MAN WHOS RACE IS STILL SUBJECTED TO CRUELTY AND RACISM....SHAME ON YOU FOR YOUR DEADLY ALLINCE AGAINST HUMANITY....SHAME ON YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF A TERRORIST REGIME THAT HAS CONTINUESLY VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAWS AS LAID DOWN IN THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS...SHAME ON YOU...SHAME ON YOU...SHAME ON YOU...SHAME ON YOU FOR BEING SILENCED BY ZIONIST TERRORISTS.....

Loan Modification (2009-01-20 21:21:00)

I challenge the new administration to do something on the global financial crisis as well as all ignited war to end.

Inaugural parade to start at 2:30 pm EST (2009-01-20 12:19)

Large crowds of people are preparing to watch President Barack Obama's inaugural parade from Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

Tonight at the inaugural ball, Beyonce will serenade Barack and Michelle during the first dance.



WELT ONLINE



Obama Inaugural Parade - Video

Right Pundits, CA - 55 minutes ago

By Maggie M. Thorton The inaugural **parade** begins at 2:30 EST this afternoon, Tuesday, January 20th, 2009, beginning at the US Capitol building and ...

Video: Raw Video: Obama Goes to Church AssociatedPress 

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/v/W2Uxs1TCV-E>

A glimpse at **Obama's** day Detroit Free Press

Massive crowd to greet **Obama** MSNBC

100 black horses and 10000 marchers to salute Pres. Barack **Obama**

Los Angeles Times, CA - 4 hours ago

One of the most interesting aspects of the presidential inaugural **parade** for Barack **Obama** is the inclusion of about 10000 marchers from all 50 states ...

City girl will be in **Obama's** inaugural **parade** News Dispatch

Local riders share excitement for today's **parade** Pilot News

Culver Academies riders represent state in **parade** News Sentinel

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



323 East (2009-01-20 16:15:00)

We're broadcasting live from 323 East RIGHT NOW to celebrate the inauguration with our "Inauguration Celebration" Show Opening. For this show, over 15 artists created original artwork inspired by Barack Obama - over 30 pieces.

We'll also have DJ Sicari spinning vinyl beginning at 7pm.

Visit <http://www.323east.com/liveshow.php> to see us live and to view and purchase the artwork.

Video: Obamas at Neighborhood Ball (2009-01-20 20:21)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle at the Neighborhood Ball, the first of ten balls they will attend tonight. The two danced the first dance to a serenade of Etta James' "At Last" by Beyonce. It is expected that the Obamas will continue to celebrate until after 2:30 pm EST.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Reflecting after yesterday's inauguration (2009-01-20 21:34)

For many of us, yesterday's events are the culmination of two years of working at the grassroots level to get Barack Obama elected starting back before he officially entered the race in Feb. 2007.

The initial announcement was made via a simple video message uploaded to a sparse campaign website. Many supporters who had worked on the draft Obama effort wondered how a presidential level candidate could start off with such a simple web presence.

Of course, eventually Obama rolled out a web machine that would propel him far ahead of the competition in online prowess. The former Illinois senator came to depend on his online support to offset the establishment backing of chief primary opponent Hillary Clinton.

I can clearly remember how many people I know, who really wanted to see change, would say that America was still not ready to elect an African American into the White House. A few acquaintances, very thoughtful and informed in these matters, thought the country was still decades, or 50 years or more from reaching that point.

However, many of my generation, and I'm about a year and a half older than Barack, who tinker in politics were aware of changes that have occurred in the mentality of many Americans, especially younger ones. Obama himself seems to have been well aware of these changes himself.

These changes have been going on for a long time, but most politicians rarely bother to target young people as part of the main thrust of their campaign. Every candidate has some youth outreach, but this is usually merely an aside to the primary focus of reaching likely voters, who tend to be older.

Obama though realized that he had to concentrate on younger and more progressive voters. And he knew that the

internet was a great place to find such voters. The internet is an integrated area much like Obama's original home state of Hawai'i, or like the armed forces. Integrated environments breed familiarity and reduce "otherness." His own upbringing and his technical savvy made him aware of these opportunities to change the electoral map. Now it wasn't an easy road. During the summer of 2007, for example, Obama plummeted in the polls against Clinton, with the latter beginning to look like the "inevitable" candidate. The primary battle, in particular, was long and rigorous. The plan though eventually brought victory.

Now, with Obama taking the reins as the 44th president, expectations and the stakes are high. He may have a tough time coming through with some of his promises in the current environment. Some have wondered whether some of his cabinet picks will work energetically enough to push through his agenda, when they have expressed differing views in the past.

What most of us who have been around from the start have learned, however, is that Obama cannot not do this all by himself. Change comes from the people. Obama, at best, can act as an instrument of the people. As Obama said himself, we are the change that we seek.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2009-01-21 10:56:00)

This man is a fraud. As his student, I have personally known him to be ashamed of his Muslim ancestry. He is weak and ruled by his manly wife. I am ashamed to think that I was ever in his class. He despises Muslims mainly because his Muslim father dumped his Christian mother, and as he has seen the opulent lifestyle of Muslims growing up in Indonesia, he is bitter that his own life was so fragmented and grasping. In Pakistan too he has seen how the rich Pakistanis live, and has been severely jealous as to why he was denied that luxury. Hence you see his wife espousing fashion and his \$9 million extravagance for a week's Hawaii vacation, on American taxpayer money. His agenda is that of his wife - black America. His wife is a very bitter and vengeful woman. Who wouldn't be, growing up in South Side of Chicago, which is same as Harlem of NY? His wife and her family have never seen a penny of luxury. They - Michelle, Craig and Barack - got where they were because of affirmative action, and Obama knows this very well. You have not seen their origins. Go to Hyde Park in Chicago and see, you will know a ghetto when you see one. Chicago is a hotbed of criminals-turned-politicians, and for a black man to get anywhere in that climate he needs to have had a lot of black power - and petty money-grubbing rich white power - behind him, which means shaking hands with all kinds of crooks. Plus, he has too many favors to return to the people who handed him the presidency. Those people have heavily vested interests. I am afraid to think of how Obama - Mr AND Mrs, and Mrs' entire afro family - are going to bring this great nation down in the gutter with them. No one can rise so fast without a personal agenda - and a powerful sugar daddy hellbent on his/her own agenda. Politics means plenty of compromises. Obama has sold his soul. Just you wait and watch.

MacD (2009-01-21 11:43:00)

What exactly ARE the WH "staff" positions that were sworn in today by Biden? What are the job descriptions? How did those folks get those jobs? Was it an open application process or are they all campaign insiders now being rewarded with top jobs?

FASHION REALIZATION (2009-01-21 12:55:00)

Paul

Well said!

I agree that, as Mahatma Gandhi said: "You must be the change you want to see in the world".

We ARE The Change, so let's get to it!

Obama moves on military, foreign policy (2009-01-21 15:44)

President Barack Obama is meeting with Pentagon and State Department officials to begin changing policies in the area of military and foreign affairs.

Obama wants to discuss with the top military chiefs his plan for withdrawing troops from Iraq in 16 months. Currently, Iraq and the U.S. have an agreement to leave by the end of 2011. The president also ordered all Guantanamo prosecutions halted and called for plans to shut down the facility within a year.

Obama is scheduled to meet with White House National Security Advisor James L. Jones, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chair, and Gen. David H. Petraeus, U.S. military chief in the Middle East. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, U.S. commander in Iraq, will participate by video teleconference.

Also today, the United States Senate confirmed Hillary Clinton as secretary of state by a 94-2 vote.



FOXNews **Obama** meeting with **military**, diplomatic officials

WLOS, NC - 1 hour ago

A senior **military** official says the meeting with the Joint Chiefs will come within a week. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Adm. Mike Mullen, ...



Video: World Ready to Work With Obama AssociatedPress

[EMBED] **Obama** poised to put imprint on Iraq, Afghan wars The Associated Press

Obama calls meeting to reshape Pentagon strategy Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



At Last: Barack and Michelle at Neighborhood Ball (2009-01-21 19:41)

For your enjoyment:

[EMBED]

Barack And Michelle Obama's First Dance at the Neighborhood Ball serenaded by Beyonce singing the Etta James classic "At Last."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Hillary Clinton takes reins at State Department (2009-01-22 09:39)

New Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took charge at the State Department after confirmation yesterday.

Clinton greeted employees at the State Department on Thursday and is scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and National Security Adviser Jim Jones at the State Department Thursday afternoon.

"I believe with all of my heart that this is a new era for America," Clinton told her colleagues. "President Obama set the tone with his inaugural address.... Robust diplomacy and effective development are the best long term tools for securing America's future," said Clinton to an enthusiastic crowd of about 1000 diplomats and employees. Clinton is America's 67th secretary of state.



Voice of America **New Secretary of State Hillary Clinton takes charges at State ...**

New York Daily News - 42 minutes ago

AP Incoming Secretary of State greets Department of State employees as she arrives Thursday for her first day on the job. WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived at her new office in the State Department Thursday morning, ...



Video: Senate Confirms Clinton As Secretary of State AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

Cheers, Crowds Greet Clinton at State Department Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2009-01-22 09:39)

New Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took charge at the State Department after cibfernabtuib



Voice of America

New Secretary of State Hillary Clinton takes charges at State ...

New York Daily News - 42 minutes ago

AP Incoming Secretary of State greets Department of State employees as she arrives Thursday for her first day on the job. WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrived at her new office in the State Department Thursday morning, ...



Video: Senate Confirms Clinton As Secretary of State AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

Cheers, Crowds Greet Clinton at State Department Voice of America

Obama retakes oath (2009-01-22 09:51)

[EMBED]

Out of an "abundance of caution," President Barack Obama decided to retake the oath of office after a bungle that occurred during the inauguration. Two other presidents - Calvin Coolidge and Chester A. Arthur - have retaken the oath because of unusual circumstances the first time around.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama to be first president to use Blackberry, email (2009-01-22 14:35)

President Barack Obama does not have to give up his Blackberry email device after all.

"The President has a BlackBerry through a compromise that allows him to stay in touch with senior staff and a small group of personal friends in a way that use will be limited," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said on Thursday. Obama's staff had thought that the email device was not secure enough and would subject the president to extra scrutiny. All presidential emails are public record and neither Bill Clinton or George W. Bush used email for official business.

The Blackberry, made by Research In Motion Ltd, is more portable than a laptop and allows the user to receive and send email messages.



guardian.co.uk **Obama keeps BlackBerry e-mail device, after all**

Reuters - 54 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama, who worried after winning office that he would have to part with his BlackBerry because of security concerns, will get to keep the addictive email device after all.

Spokesman says Obama is keeping his BlackBerry The Associated Press

Obama can keep BlackBerry Boston Globe

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Erio (2009-01-22 20:06:00)

Finally, an easy way to answer the question "Did you ever think you'd live to see a Black President?"

<http://www.cafepress.com/ineedthis>

Fashion, Travel, Music... (2009-01-22 23:14:00)

I love Obama

I love Whitley Kros (whitleykros.com)

I love Cat Power (album jukebox)

I love Bob Dylan (everything)

I love India (the children)

I love America (the hope)

share what you love.

Obama girls setting fashion trends (2009-01-23 10:28)

Michelle, Malia and Sasha Obama are lighting up the fashion world after their inaugural appearances.

The First Lady wore dresses made by Isabel Toledo and Jason Wu, while the kids sported J. Crews designs.

"Michelle Obama is a new fashion icon. She is accessible and stylish. She is 'everywoman,'" Stephanie Solomon, Bloomingdale's vice president for fashion direction told Foxnews.com. "She has fashion flair and the ability to wear an outfit so that her personality shines through. Clothes do not wear her, she wears the clothes. And her choice of new and up-and-coming American designers is a real boost to the entire American fashion industry."



Sasha and Malia Obama in their J. Crew coats on Inauguration Day (AP)

"Malia and Sasha's style will definitely influence tween girls," said youth fashion expert Denise Restauri, CEO and founder of AllyKatz.com in a CBS News interview. "They're already starting to talk about it. They're talking about coats they wore to the inauguration. They're talking about what they wore to the concert. Girls will start wearing what they are wearing, because they are the new celebrities."



Washington Post



Michelle, Malia and Sasha **Obama** Ignite a Fashion Frenzy

FOXNews - 3 hours ago

AP First Lady Michelle, Malia and Sasha **Obama** have ignited a fashion frenzy. President **Obama**, maybe not so much. Isabel Toledo is working around the clock ...

Video: Letter From Daddy Obama CBS 

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/v/8NEAMm95qC4>

Sasha And Malia: Trendsetters In Making CBS News

Bush Twins Read Letter To **Obama** Girls (VIDEO) Huffington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Pakistan air strikes underscore continuation of Bush policy (2009-01-23 16:45)

President Barack Obama launched his first air strikes into Pakistan indicating that he will continue the Bush policy of unilateral military action against the spoken will of the Pakistani government.

This is the first action since Obama took office on Tuesday that is likely to attract some opposition from progressive groups that supported him strongly during the campaign. Vanity Fair has this to say:

Obama can't be expected to pander to liberals for the next four years. But the decision to double down in Afghanistan carries considerable risk. Like the economy, it is a huge problem. But even the economy can be expected to bounce back sometime in the next few years. If Afghanistan turns into Obama's Iraq, he may miss the support of the anti-war left, which, it's worth remembering, helped propel him past Hillary Clinton not so very long ago.



Los Angeles Times Strikes in **Pakistan** Underscore **Obama's** Options

New York Times, United States - 1 hour ago

Even as the CIA continues its strikes just inside **Pakistan's** border with Afghanistan, Mr. **Obama** and his top national security aides are likely to review in ...

Suspected US missile attacks kill 18 in **Pakistan** Los Angeles Times

Suspected US Missile Strikes Kill at Least 20 in **Pakistan** Washington Post

Deadly missiles strike **Pakistan** BBC News



WELT ONLINE ANALYSIS: **Obama**, **Pakistan** and Afghanistan —Najmuddin A Shaikh

Daily Times, Pakistan - Jan 22, 2009

The "hard earned peace" that **Obama** is seeking in Afghanistan (and **Pakistan**, since for some time now the American security establishment and many who are now ...



Video: Obama, Clinton At State Dept. CBS

[EMBED] Afghan, **Pakistani** Officials Welcome Broader Strategy From US ... Voice of America

Obama names Mideast, South Asia envoys Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama gives more details on stimulus plan (2009-01-24 09:13)

President Barack Obama gave more details on his economic stimulus plan that will cost at least \$820 billion. Obama plans to cut taxes by a minimum of \$275 billion and spend at least \$545 billion on new projects and to help states with their budget problems.

Some specific programs include doubling green energy capacity in three years and expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

Republicans have expressed some concern about the amount of deficit spending saying that they do not want to pass on too much debt to future generations.

Of course, many of us remember such warnings about "future generations" before, but now find out that we do not have to wait for our great grandchildren to come along. The debt has caught up with the borrowing generation!

And new debt might have more immediate effects as compared to the previous decades of borrowing. As an illustration, think of a fresh new company that comes along with a clean slate. Early on, the company can obtain financing rather easily without any immediate repercussion.

However, if the company accumulates more and more red ink, each new loan has more immediate effect. The tolerance level and confidence of creditors and investors diminishes and pretty soon the company will not be able to attract new capital.



Sify Obama Fleshes Out Further Details of Stimulus Plan

Washington Post - 2 hours ago

By Paul Kane, Michael D. Shear and Anne E. Kornblut President Obama ramped up his personal lobbying campaign for an economic recovery package that would cost at least \$820 billion, holding his first bipartisan gathering of congressional leaders at the ...



Video: Obama Asks Lawmakers to Back Stimulus Bill AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

Obama, Republicans seek common ground on economy Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama acting quickly, confidently (2009-01-24 17:57)

If anyone thought the Obama administration might get off to a slow start due to the youth and relative inexperience of the president, they thought wrong.

In a little more than 100 hours since taking office, President Barack Obama has saturated Washington with new executive orders and introduced legislation.

Many thought that the cerebral Obama, who often had trouble with rapid-fire questioning during candidate debates, might act much more methodically once in office. But quite to the contrary the administration has moved very decisively and confidently on a wide range of issues.

Of course, Obama has many experienced folk on his team with many having served during the Clinton administration,

so really it is just about Obama giving the go signal in many cases.

Hillary Clinton, for example, has made quite a splash at the State Department where there is reportedly a lot of enthusiasm among diplomats and staff eager for a new direction in foreign policy.

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama on Saturday laid out more pieces of an economic plan he says would add 3,000 miles of electrical lines, increase security at 90 ports and double the United States' renewable energy capacity within three years. (Jan. 24) **How Obama set the tone for a new US revolution**

guardian.co.uk - 54 minutes ago

Within days of his inauguration, Barack Obama had established a unique presidential style, displaying the charm of Reagan and the ruthlessness of Roosevelt as he introduced a blizzard of new legislation.

Reader's view: Obama brings hope for economy to heal, war to end Duluth News Tribune

X

FOXNews **Obama's first, confident steps**

Financial Times - 43 minutes ago

President Barack Obama has made a good, confident start. He quickly signed orders closing Guantánamo Bay, ending the Central Intelligence Agency's use of secret prisons, and requiring interrogators to abide by the relatively "non-coercive" methods laid ...

France floats EU plan on Guantanamo - report Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Maria (2009-01-25 17:13:00)

Interesting blog and coverage of the campaign.

Obama and Afghanistan (2009-01-25 11:41)

A number of commentaries have been published recently exploring President Barack Obama's strategy in Afghanistan

. During the election, Obama promised to withdraw troops, except a non-combat residual force, from Iraq, but increase the U.S. presence in Afghanistan. He saw the mountainous country as the central front against terrorism and vowed to tackle al-Qaeda, which operates both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is less clear whether Obama is intent on stamping out the Taliban or is open to negotiations with that fundamentalist group.

Most of the opinion pieces question whether a "surge" would work in Afghanistan or whether the U.S. might be heading into another Vietnam-like quagmire.

The steady growth and expansion of the Taliban in recent years is well-documented. They now control much of the rural countryside in the eastern and southern parts of the country, and they are closing in on the capital Kabul. It is mainly in the northern areas, where the old "Northern Alliance" was based, and Kabul that U.S. and NATO forces can find any friends in the country.

Taliban forces are holed up in rugged mountain strongholds that are extremely difficult to operate in. Even small areas in this region can only be secured with large numbers of forces, and consequently many supply and communication routes are vulnerable to attackers.

NATO forces also appear to be losing the battle for the hearts and minds of the people. The Taliban, at least, appears to have little trouble finding new recruits even though they have adopted suicide tactics similar to those used by al-Qaeda.

Obama reportedly plans to increase troop strength in Afghanistan by about 30,000 with a lot of the concentration in the Taliban heartland of Kandahar. He also plans to use more private security companies to guard bases and transportation routes. The Kandahar bases is under rapid expansion to host an extra 10,000 U.S. troops.

Pakistan is often mentioned in the same breath as Afghanistan whenever the war is discussed by the new administration officials. Obama has hinted that he will place more pressure on Islamabad to exterminate insurgents in their midsts, and that he will take unilateral action in certain instances.

✕

Sky News **Obama's** War Fearing Another Quagmire in Afghanistan

New York Times, United States - 16 hours ago

By HELENE COOPER WASHINGTON — Can President **Obama** succeed in that long-lamented “graveyard of empires” — a place that has crushed foreign occupiers for more ...

President **Obama** revs up Afghan fight; backseats Iraq at Clinton debut New York Daily News

Obama's Vietnam? Washington Times

Obstacles are many for US in Afghanistan Kansas City Star

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Will Republicans back Obama stimulus plan? (2009-01-25 17:42)

House Republican leader John Boehner said today that there is little GOP support for President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan .

Boehner said the current package has too much wasteful and “slow-moving” spending that will not be effective in creating jobs.

“I think a lot of Republicans will vote no, because they see this as a lot of wasteful Washington spending, padding the bureaucracy and doing nothing to help create jobs and preserve jobs,” Boehner said on NBC Sunday.

Obama's economic team though continued to warn that delayed action could have serious consequences including double digit unemployment.

Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York was optimistic that Republicans would eventually support the Obama package. “I think you're going to find a large number of Republicans voting for this package. There has been a lot of input,” Schumer said on “Fox News Sunday.”

✕

Washington Post **Will Obama's economic plan stimulate bipartisan support?**

CNN - 2 hours ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – President Barack Obama, who arguably won a large chunk of political capital in the 2008 election, is now looking to cash in as he urges Congress to pass a massive economic stimulus package.

 Video: Boehner: Little GOP Support for Stimulus Package AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Biden, Summers Sound Economic Warnings, Push Stimulus Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bobby (2009-01-26 00:45:00)

If Boehner nixes the stimulus package, he'll go down like Gingrich and get booted out of office. He represents a low to middle income district in rust-belt Ohio cities and depressed rural areas. With widespread unemployment in his district, he won't be back in Congress if he deepens the recession to satisfy wealthy supporters. He can't recognize the new political reality of this recession and is out of touch with his constituency. You can take that to the bank, provided you can find one that's solvent.

J (2009-01-26 08:52:00)

They should, President Obama knows what hes talking about. He has surrounded himself with the best, and even some of his fiercest critics, he's getting all the information from the right people. So we at <http://obamamania-yeswecan.blogspot.com/> only hope they do the right thing and let President Obama refresh America.

Barack Obama acts on environmental policy (2009-01-26 09:36)

President Barack Obama is taking steps to implement the new environmental policy he promised during this campaign.

He started by ordering the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow states to set their own automobile emission standards – a move blocked by former president George W. Bush. California is among the states that has been looking to set its own fuel-efficiency rules. At least 12 other states are also interested in making the same move. Obama also directed the Department of Transportation to set new federal fuel-efficiency standards by March, and is ordering all federal agencies to conserve more energy.



BBC News Obama takes steps to reverse Bush climate policies

Reuters - 26 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - US President Barack Obama told the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday to reconsider California's request to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from cars, reversing the climate policies of former President George W. Bush.

Obama to allow states to set auto emissions rules USA Today

Obama pushing stronger fuel-efficiency standard The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Video: Obama on energy efficiency (2009-01-26 14:08)

[EMBED]

Barack Obama talking about the hard medicine needed to prepare the U.S. auto industry for the future, reduce dependency of foreign oil and preserve the planet's environment.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

The Era of Not Getting It: The Marie Antoinettes of the Meltdown (2009-01-26 16:59)



They should spend as much money on grassroots assistance as they are in bailing out Wall Street firms and banks. There are a lot of potential problems that can rise up when you throw so much money at these financial institutions before their internal problems are well-understood. The term "black hole" is commonly used and is appropriate. Until they fix whatever caused trillions of dollars to vanish from the market in several weeks, they need to proceed with caution.

The market is not and has never been capable of regulating itself. The system is designed to favor those who already have money and influence, and thoughtful people have long recognized that regulation and a tiered tax system were needed to prevent masses of people from becoming impoverished.

Our modern Wall Street aristocracy has been exposed, and the peasantry i.e., the middle class and the poor need to rise to the occasion or indeed, "let them eat cake!"

Read the Article at [HuffingtonPost](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Fashion, Travel, Music... (2009-01-26 21:38:00)

I love Obama.

I also love Whitley Kros (whitleykros.com)

Cat Power (she's The Greatest)
Bob Dylan (is a genius)
Beck (listen to his music on the whitley kros website)
Intelligensia Coffee (Silverlake anyone?)
Here's to 2009!

Barack Obama ready for Iran talks (2009-01-27 12:55)

President Barack Obama said he is willing to begin talks with Iran – a view echoed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Obama said that if Iran were willing to "unclench its fist" it would find an "extended hand" from the United States.

Obama's Middle East envoy, former Senator George Mitchell, is now touring the region.

[EMBED]



Voice of America **Obama says ready to talk to Iran**

Reuters - 30 minutes ago

By Firouz Sedarat and Lin Noueihed DUBAI (Reuters) - President Barack Obama said America was prepared to extend a hand of peace to Iran if it "unclenched its fist" and that the time was ripe for Israel and the Palestinians to resume peace negotiations.

Obama Signals New Tone in Relations With Islamic World New York Times

Egypt, Hamas welcome US Middle East envoy Christian Science Monitor

Clinton says **Iran** has chance to show willing to engage Reuters

Clinton: Iranians must choose whether to cooperate The Associated Press

Clinton: Engagement in **Iran's** hands MSNBC

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-01-29 12:07:00)
good indicative.
MOHIT GANGWAR

Bipartisanship difficult on economic issues (2009-01-27 18:43)

Progressives and conservatives can often get together in times of crisis especially when it involves issues of national security.

On economic issues though – things like taxes, deficits and spending – it has always been much harder to get them to agree with each other. Indeed, often consensus is difficult on economic matters even among members of the same party.

So it may be that the Obama administration will have to ramrod the president's economic stimulus plan through the House of Representatives with mostly Democratic votes. There may still be some time to get more Republican support before the Senate votes on the package.

If only for political reasons, members of both party know that something needs to be done quickly as thousands of jobs are lost everyday. Moving forward alone though can be risky for the Democrats. If the stimulus plan is seen as failing, then the Republicans can use that failure as political ammunition come election time.



BBC News **Obama seeks Republican support for stimulus plans**

Reuters - 42 minutes ago

By Thomas Ferraro and Caren Bohan WASHINGTON, Jan 27 (Reuters) - Democratic President Barack Obama struggled on Tuesday to placate Republicans in Congress who insist his \$825 billion plan for reviving the troubled US economy should include bigger tax ...



Video: Obama, GOP Leaders Meet on Stimulus AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

Obama Visits Capitol to Press Republicans on Stimulus Plan New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama reaches out on Al-Arabiya TV (2009-01-27 19:49)

President Barack Obama 's television interview on Al-Arabiya was a bold move and a big break from what Americans have gotten used to over the last eight years.

In a little over a week, Obama has made some sea changes in certain policy areas even if in some cases this just amounts to getting the country back to "normal."

Even many Obama critics were delighted by the president's willingness to accept such a risky interview, which could have produced some awkward moments. Also surprising was Obama's willingness to discuss the tough Israeli-Palestinian problem were tensions are still high after the recent ceasefire in Gaza. The lull in fighting was interrupted today as Israeli aircraft retaliated after one of their soldiers was killed by a bomb while on patrol. The attacks come just as U.S. envoy George Mitchell began his Middle East tour.



CTV.ca **Obama sends clear signal via Arab TV**

Financial Times - 51 minutes ago

By Roula Khalaf in London and Edward Luce in Washington Barack Obama has given his first television interview as US president to a Saudi-backed channel, reinforcing his message to the Muslim and Arab worlds that "Americans are not your enemy".



Video: Obama's First Formal Interview on Al-Arabiya TV AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama launches effort to 'communicate' in Mideast Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



ObamaMania YesWeCan (2009-01-27 23:27:00)

What a great interview, we have the full thing on our blog, very powerful stuff and very frank.

whirlwindof2010 (2009-01-28 22:14:00)

THE FIVE NERGO PRESIDENTS BY J.A ROGERS! BEFORE OBAMA- HIS MENTOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN!

EMAIL ME

AT

WWW.THEWHIRLWINDOF2010@YAHOO.COM

FOR COPIES

mylife (2009-01-30 11:24:00)

Really an interesting interview and that on Al-Arabia. Crazy.

House Republicans ask for more tax cuts (2009-01-28 10:03)

House Republicans are offering a counter-proposal to President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan , but it looks likely that it will pass with a Democratic vote today. The Republicans are still looking for more tax cuts rather than new government spending.

However, tax cuts now might encourage recession-wary Americans to save rather than spend given the regular flow of gloomy economic news. Apparently that's what happened with the last stimulus plan, and even banking companies have squirreled away money from the big financial bailout instead of making it available for new lending.




The Miami Herald **House Republicans Push Counter-Proposal on Stimulus**

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

An economic stimulus bill pushed by Republicans in the House would shift focus entirely from spending to tax relief. Far from rolling over, House Republican leaders are trying to win concessions from President Obama over the massive economic stimulus ...




Video: House Expected to Vote Wed. on Stimulus Package AssociatedPress

[EMBED] South Florida Republicans resist Obama's stimulus plan The Miami Herald 

ITV.com **Gloom** Deepens Among Executives, Economists at **Davos**

Bloomberg - 2 hours ago

28 (Bloomberg) – **Gloom** is deepening among business leaders and economists, casting a pall over this year's World Economic Forum in **Davos**, Switzerland. ...

 Video: Davos'09: global crisis in mind RussiaToday
[EMBED]

Gloom enshrouds **Davos** crisis summit AFP

DAVOS: Doom and **gloom** at World Economic Forum Bild.de

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama's first bill, setback (2009-01-29 15:04)

President Barack Obama signed into law his first bill a day after a disappointing House vote on his economic stimulus plan.

The stimulus plan passed but in an inauspicious portent for bipartisanship, Obama failed to attract Republican support.

Republicans may be playing politics here as they know there is a good chance that the economy will still be in recession by election time in 2010. By rejecting the stimulus plan, they can use the economy as a weapon against Democrats in trying to win back Congress.

On a positive note for the Obama administration today, the president signed an equal pay law for women. The Lilly Ledbetter Act focuses on gender equity for pay in the workplace.



The Miami Herald **Barack and Michelle Obama lead celebration of new equal pay law**

Christian Science Monitor - 35 minutes ago

By Dave Cook | 01.29.09 Since her highly photographed appearances at various inaugural balls, the first lady has spent much of her time out of public view helping her two daughters adjust to their new surroundings.

 Video: Obama Signs First Bill CBS

Obama Signs First Piece of Legislation Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Is the First Lady pregnant? (2009-01-30 08:44)

Ok, this is coming from the gossip columns, specifically Los Angeles' celebrity blogger, Perez Hilton. A similar rumor was started back in November of last year.

The Obamas have said they do not intend to have anymore children other than Malia and Sasha.



Telegraph.co.uk



Michelle Obama 'pregnant': report

Hindustan Times, India - 5 hours ago

PTI US First Lady **Michelle Obama** is believed to be pregnant and expecting her third child, a media report in Britain said on Friday. ...

Michelle Obama Might be Pregnant TheInsider.com

Michelle Obama Reportedly Pregnant with Third Child Softpedia

Perez Hilton: Is **Michelle Obama** pregnant? Telegraph.co.uk

In other Michelle news, the First Lady will have a wax figure placed in Madame Tussands museum in Washington. Papers in the United Kingdom are calling Michelle, the American version of Princess Diana, who had both a flair for fashion and a heart for helping the less fortunate.



CBS News



Michelle Obama Gets A Wax Figure – and Spot in Madame Tussauds

ABC News - 14 hours ago

Mrs. **Obama's** figure – currently in clay head form – is set to debut in the Washington, DC museum in March. Efforts were well under way for President **Obama's** ...

Michelle Obama Gets the Wax Museum Treatment U.S. News & World Report

Michelle Obama Wax Figure: Madame Tussauds Right Celebrity

Michelle Obama: Statuesque First Lady to Become Actual Statue E! Online



Times Online **Michelle Obama**: America's Lady **Diana**?

Times Online, UK - Jan 24, 2009

"There is no comparison between **Michelle Obama** and Princess **Diana**. Princess **Diana** was very classy and elegant - **Michelle Obama** is not. ...

UK media terms **Michelle Obama** America's Lady **Diana** NDTV.com

Michelle Jackie Carla Jackie **Michelle Diana** Jackie Jackie Carla **Diana** Wired News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Obama hopes to sign SCHIP next week (2009-01-30 14:01)

President Barack Obama could sign a bill that provides government-sponsored health care to roughly 4 million uninsured children as soon as next week. The Senate approved the bill 66-32 yesterday.

"As the worsening economy causes families to lose their jobs and health insurance, it is vital that we redouble our efforts to ensure that every child in America has access to affordable health care," Obama said in a statement.

"That is why I am pleased that the Senate has joined the House in passing bipartisan legislation to provide health insurance to children whose families have been hurt most by this downturn." Obama called the vote "a down payment on my commitment to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care."

The bill approves an additional \$32.8 billion over the next 5 years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The House plans to vote on the measure next week. 

Washington Post **Obama** hails passage of children's health insurance

The Associated Press - 48 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says President Barack **Obama** could sign a bill providing government-sponsored health care to roughly 4 million uninsured ...

Obama lauds bipartisan kids' health insurance plan CNN

Obama cheers Congress over children's health bill AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jeff (2009-01-30 17:11:00)

I for one am hopeful that Obama will bring new possibilities as far as federal funding for stem cell research is concerned. Countless people all over the U.S. suffer from chronic and hereditary diseases which could be eradicated through treatment with stem cells. Further, people with organ failures may eventually be able to "grow their own". Certainly a wonderful possibility which I hope Obama will help be made into reality much sooner.

mark (2009-02-04 16:55:00)

Great Bill Obama Bravo!

Middle-class families are getting poorer and legal immigrants are... well legal immigrants with children and I applaude the expansion.

Mark Golding

Children of Iraq Association

LONDON

Obama promises lower mortgage costs (2009-01-31 09:26)

President Barack Obama on Saturday promised to lower mortgage costs as part of his economic stimulus plan.

"We'll help lower mortgage costs and extend loans to small businesses so they can create jobs. We'll ensure that CEOs are not draining funds that should be advancing our recovery," Obama said.

"Rarely in history has our country faced economic problems as devastating as this crisis. Now is the time for those of us in Washington to live up to our responsibilities."

Most economists view the resetting of subprime mortgages as the catalyst for the current economic crisis. There will be resets of similar scope for adjustable rate mortgages this year and in 2011, something often ignored by those predicting a relatively quick economic recovery.

[EMBED]

1/31/09: Your Weekly Address from White House on Vimeo.



CTV.ca **Obama promises lower mortgage costs, new loans**

The Associated Press - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama on Saturday promised to lower mortgage costs, offer job-creating loans for small businesses, get credit flowing and rein in free-spending executives as he readies a new road map for spending billions from the ...



Video: Obama Sets Cool, Casual White House Tone AssociatedPress


[EMBED] Obama pledges mortgage help with new plan Deutsche Welle

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama authorizes \$20.3 million aid package for Gaza (2009-01-31 17:46)

The White House announced Friday that it will send US \$20.3 million in humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip .

"The Obama administration today announced an emergency contribution of more than 20 million dollars to relief efforts in Gaza as part of the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund," Obama press secretary Robert Gibbs said. United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross working in Gaza will receive the money according to the State Department. 

PRESS TV Obama authorizes \$20.3 mln in aid to **Gaza**

Xinhua, China - Jan 30, 2009

... will make an emergency contribution of 20.3 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance in the **Gaza** Strip, the **White House** announced on Friday. ...

US sending \$20 million to **Gaza** MarketWatch (press release)

US announces USD 20.3 mn in humanitarian aid to Palestinians Press Trust of India

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-02-02 05:45:00)

This is urgently needed for all those civilians who have suffered so much during this conflict.

Anonymous (2010-02-05 09:28:17)

China and Russia put the blame on some screwed up experiments of US for the earthquake that happened in Haiti.

Chinese and Russian Military scientists, these reports say, are concurring with Canadian researcher, and former Asia-Pacific Bureau Chief of Forbes Magazine, Benjamin Fulford, who in a very disturbing video released from his Japanese offices to the American public, details how the United States attacked China by the firing of a 90 Million Volt Shockwave from the Americans High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facilities in Alaska

If we can recollect a previous news when US blamed Russia for the earthquake in Georgio. What do you guys think? Is it really possible to create an earthquake by humans?

I came across this [url=<http://universalages.com/hot-news/what-happened-in-haiti-is-it-related-to-haarp/>]article about Haiti Earthquake[/url] in some blog it seems very interesting, but conspiracy theories have always been there.

Anonymous (2010-03-13 21:12:02)

Good day all, I just registered on this great community forum and desired to say howdy! Have a fantastic day!

Anonymous (2010-04-08 12:34:40)

whats up everyone

just registered and put on my todo list

hopefully this is just what im looking for looks like i have a lot to read.

Anonymous (2010-04-10 11:06:08)

hiya

great forum lots of lovely people just what i need

hopefully this is just what im looking for looks like i have a lot to read.

3.2 February

Obama to host bipartisan Super Bowl party (2009-02-01 08:41)

President Barack Obama is hosting a bipartisan Super Bowl party at the White House on Sunday night.

Obama invited 15 legislators: 11 Democrats, four Republicans and three women.

The president said that he was rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers mentioning the strong support he received from the team during his campaign.

The invited lawmakers are: Sens. Bob Casey, D-Pa.; Dick Durbin, D-Ill.; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; and Arlen Specter, R-Pa.; and Reps. Elijah Cummings, D-Md.; Artur Davis, D-Ala.; Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.; Charlie Dent, R-Pa.; Mike Doyle, D-Pa.; Trent Franks, R-Ariz.; Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz.; Paul Hodes, D-N.H.; Patrick Murphy, D-Pa.; Fred Upton, R-Mich.; and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.



SkySports President **Obama's Super Bowl** party has a political purpose

New York Daily News, NY - 9 hours ago

It's about real parties, like the **Super Bowl** bash he's throwing Sunday night at the White House. But **Obama's** not just looking for a little relief from the ...

 Video: Obama Says He's Rooting for the Steelers AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Hosted by **Obama, Super Bowl** party goes bipartisan The Associated Press

Obama to Host Democrats, Republicans at White House **Super Bowl** Party FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama to allow "torture flights?" (2009-02-02 12:04)

The media is reporting that President Barack Obama is allowing the so-called " torture flights " in which suspects are flown to countries that practice torture.

These flights known as "renditions" caused an uproar after it was revealed that the CIA had conducted some 1,200 flights to secret prisons in Poland and Romania.

However, the Obama administration has said that it is reviewing the rendition policy to see if the practice can be accomplished without subjecting people to torture.

One administration official was quoted by the Los Angeles Times as saying: "The legal advisers working on this looked at rendition. It is controversial in some circles and kicked up a big storm in Europe. But if done within certain parameters, it is an acceptable practice."



Telegraph.co.uk **Obama** set to allow Bush-era 'torture flights'

Times of India, India - 58 minutes ago

According to a detailed reading of the executive orders signed by **Obama** on January 22, **renditions** have not been outlawed, with the new administration ...

Renditions still allowed under new **Obama** directive Dallas Morning News

Obama maintains foreign **renditions** Detroit Free Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



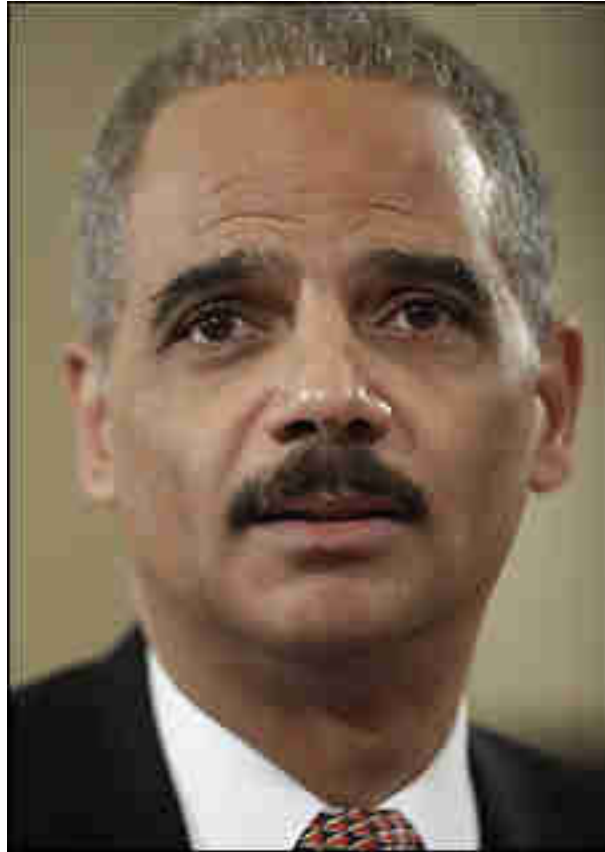
Anonymous (2009-02-02 21:15:00)

www.whatobamasays.com It may surprise you exactly how close we are to failing as a nation.

Eric H. Holder confirmed as Attorney General (2009-02-02 21:20)

President Barack Obama's pick for attorney general, Eric H. Holder Jr., was confirmed by the Senate by a 75 to 21 vote.

Holder becomes the nation's first African American attorney general. He was confirmed by more yes votes than the last four attorneys generals.



The confirmation of Eric H. Holder Jr. opens a new chapter for the embattled Justice Department.
(Evan Vucci - AP)



Times Online **Holder Confirmed As the First Black Attorney General**

Washington Post - 4 hours ago

By Carrie Johnson The Senate confirmed Eric H. Holder Jr. as the nation's first African American attorney general by a vote of 75 to 21 yesterday, opening a new chapter for a Justice Department that had suffered under allegations of improper political ...



Video: Senate Votes to Confirm Holder As AG AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Queens prosecutor Eric Holder becomes first African-American ... New York Daily News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama to hit airwaves for economic stimulus (2009-02-03 08:29)

The Obama administration is planning a media blitz as senators debate over changes to his economic stimulus package.

Obama will saturate U.S. television with ads urging Congress to approve the \$885 billion plan.

Democrats want more funding for transportation infrastructure especially mass transit. Republicans are asking for a large range of cuts in "wasteful" spending.

The tug-of-war goes on as reports continue to flow out demonstrating the depth of the economic troubles both in the U.S. and abroad.

However, Obama's "Buy American" clause drew concern abroad including amongst the country's allies. "Beggars thy neighbour policies will never give a good result," IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in a speech in Tokyo.

Many economic analysts note that the depths of the Great Depression are widely believed to have been caused partly by a worldwide trade war sparked by U.S. protectionist legislation.


[EMBED]



Sydney Morning Herald **Obama plans media blitz on stimulus plan**

USA Today - 1 hour ago

By Ron Edmonds, AP WASHINGTON (AP) - President Obama planned Tuesday to blanket US television with the message that Congress must approve hundreds of billions of dollars to fight off economic collapse.

 Video: Obama to Nominate Gregg for Cabinet

[EMBED]

AssociatedPress

Obama Picks Another Republican U.S. News & World Report

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Daschle, Killefer withdraw nominations (2009-02-03 19:18)

President Barack Obama had a tough day Tuesday after two of his nominees withdrew because of tax problems.

Sen. Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination for health and human services secretary and Nancy Killefer removed herself from consideration as deputy chief performance officer.

Timothy Geithner also had tax issues but was eventually confirmed as treasury secretary.

One might surmise that the Obama vetting team did not check tax records, or relied on statements given by the nominees.



FOXNews **Obama Admits Embarrassing Day for Administration**

ABC News - 3 hours ago

By LAUREN SHER President Obama acknowledged that it has been an embarrassing day for his administration, taking responsibility for three of his high-level nominees' withdrawing their names because of tax troubles.



Video: White House: Obama Confident in Vetting Process AssociatedPress
[EMBED]



Comment by Cliff Kincaid President, America's Survival, Inc

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama caps Wall St. salaries for bailout (2009-02-04 11:07)

President Barack Obama made a great move today calling for a salary cap on executive pay for companies drawing from the bailout fund.

The "common sense" cap is \$500,000 for companies that accept substantial amounts of bailout money.

"We all need to take responsibility," said Obama.

"And this includes executives at major financial firms who turned to the American people, hat in hand, when they were in trouble, even as they paid themselves their customary lavish bonuses.

"We're asking these firms to take responsibility, to recognise the nature of this crisis and their role in it." Last year, Wall Street executives received \$18.4bn in bonuses, and some companies like Citigroup continued to spend on extravagant executive perks despite drawing from the government corporate dole, i.e., taxpayer money.



FOXNews Obama Calls for 'Common Sense' on Executive Pay

New York Times - 1 hour ago

President Obama and Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner at the White House, where they spoke about executive compensation. By EDMUND L. ANDREWS and VIKAS BAJAJ WASHINGTON - President Obama on Wednesday announced a salary cap of \$500,000 for top ...

Obama unveils executive pay cap BBC News

US places limit on executive pay for bailout recipients International Herald Tribune

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Helene (2009-02-04 13:16:00)

While I believe less is more when it comes to government intervention, on this issue I wholeheartedly agree that income and perks should be limited for those who participate in the bailout until the money has been repaid.

For example: If you loan me money to assist me in paying my mortgage because I've fallen on hard times (e.g. unemployment) and I turn around take a trip to Paris and buy a new porche, you're right to be outraged and upset. Worse still, if someone else compels you to loan me the money (the government) and I turn around and take that trip and make that purchase you're likely to be even more upset because you had no direct, immediate say in the loan.

Yes, you elect the officials who sign off on these decisions, but once they make decisions like this that you don't agree with

you're stuck until their terms are up.

When the government decides to loan MY tax dollars to institutions which I have no direct interest in, I demand that reasonable restrictions be attached to their acceptance of my hard earned money.

Buddha (2009-02-04 14:36:00)

I am trying to refinance my mortgage.

I have a 6 % 30 years fix now.

I have a credit score of 700, perfect income history, 5 time more equity than debt, perfect candidate.

I can't get a loan below 5 % apr.

WHY?

Because the greedy bankers don't give a shit about me or you the economy or the country.

All they care about is their profits and huge salaries,
everything else expandable.

What is Obama doing for you?

NO THING!!!

Anonymous (2009-02-06 21:09:00)

1 trillion dollar word deficite. not looking for a bailout.Justlooking for bail in you know J O B. LISTEN, I HAVE WORKED ALL MY LIFE MANUAL CONSTRUCTION LABOR. NO HOUSE NO HELP NO ONE BUT ME AND MY HEALTH AND PAYCHECK. SOON TO BE SCREWED EVEN MORE KNOW I AM PAYING FOR THE STIMULUS.THANKS, KEEP UP WITH THE GOVERNMENT GREED. I KNOW ITS ALL THE WORKING PEOPLES FAULT.

Anonymous (2009-02-06 21:12:00)

BROKEBACK MEN FOR HIRE. THANK YOU STIMULUS.CONTACT US AT I LEFT MY WALLET ON BROCKASS MOUNTAIN.COM.

Anonymous (2009-02-06 21:38:00)

Dude, the stimulus plan will create construction jobs by direct government spending!

Video: Obama caps bailout execs salaries (2009-02-04 16:19)

Here's video of President Barack Obama capping bailout executive salaries.

[EMBED]

In other news, the president signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providing health insurance for the nation's uninsured children.

"I refuse to accept that millions of our children fail to reach their full potential because we fail to meet their basic needs. In a decent society, there are certain obligations that are not subject to tradeoffs or negotiations, and health care for our children is one of those obligations," Obama said.

"For millions of children who fall into that gap, CHIP has provided care when they're sick and preventive services to help them stay well. This legislation will allow us to continue and build on these successes."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2009-02-06 20:36:00)

Pretty much, we and all we have ever known is over! our country has always been run by GREED. THIS GREED IN ITS FULLEST FORM. AND TO THINK I ACTUALLY CRIED WHEN ARE NEW PRES.WAS EXCEPTED.I AM FOR THE FUTURES BEST. i am just so fed up with all this talk.look, lets just agree that our countrys economy is over thanks, white america. As an american I am ashamed

of all the bigits that I continue to see and all their fake ways.

Anonymous (2009-02-06 20:43:00)

hi,bailout. bye bills! oh sorry I mean buy the stimulus. bye house,bye wife,by life.

Jobless claims rise as Senate haggles over stimulus (2009-02-05 08:56)

Jobless claims reached a 26-year high according to a new report on the labor market.

Initial weekly jobless claims increased by 35,000 to 626,000 the highest level since October 1982, the Labor Department said today. Total unemployment benefit collectors jumped to a record 4.788 million a week earlier. A media forecast by Bloomberg News had predicted jobless claims would fall to 580,000 from 588,000. The overall unemployment rate in January was 7.5 percent, the highest in 16 years.

Yesterday, President Barack Obama said the nation faced an economic "catastrophe" if an economic stimulus plan was not passed quickly. "A failure to act, and act now, will turn crisis into a catastrophe and guarantee a longer recession, a less robust recovery, and a more uncertain future," Obama said.



Reuters US Initial Unemployment Claims Jump to 26-Year High

Bloomberg - 1 hour ago

By Courtney Schlisserman and Timothy R. Homan Feb. 5 (Bloomberg) – The number of Americans filing first- time claims for jobless benefits unexpectedly jumped last week to a 26-year high, signaling a deepening deterioration in the labor market.

New Jobless Claims Surge to 626000 Washington Post

INSTANT VIEW: Jobless claims jump to 26-yr high Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Live Video: Obama at House Dems Retreat (2009-02-05 18:31)

Catch President Barack Obama speaking live at the House Democrats retreat in Williamsburg, Virgina. From CNN.com Live.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream4 &ieref=lb100>

[EMBED]



President Obama speaks at House Democrats' retreat

Watch Now: Live on CNN.com »

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama puts pressure on for stimulus package (2009-02-06 10:00)

Amid further news of high unemployment, President Barack Obama is turning up the steam on opposition to his economic stimulus bill.

"So then you get the argument, 'well, this is not a stimulus bill, this is a spending bill.' What do you think a stimulus is? That's the whole point," Obama said in response to Sen. John McCain's comment that the Obama plan was a "spending bill."

Obama said that tax cuts are not the solution to everything and that spending is an effective way to create jobs. Massive job loss will only deepen the economic woes as families cut back on spending.

[EMBED]

Obama: Voters "sent us here to bring change."



WELT ONLINE White House **Calls** to Speed the **Stimulus** Bill Amid Job Losses

Wall Street Journal Blogs, NY - 51 minutes ago

President Barack **Obama** has intensified his push for lawmakers to quickly wrap up a fiscal **stimulus** package. At the House Democrats' retreat in Williamsburg, ...

US Jobless Rate Probably Jumped to 16-Year High Bloomberg

As jobs numbers get worse, **Obama** turns up heat Boston Globe

Before the bell: Futures remain positive despite weaker-than ... BloggingStocks

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Senate passes tentative stimulus bill (2009-02-06 19:00)

U.S. senators reached agreement on a tentative economic stimulus package with a price tag of \$780 billion.

Democrats relented on the bill which at one point was costing \$900 bn.

A number of senate Republicans, though, including Sen. John McCain are opposed to the deal. "This is not bipartisan," said McCain. "If this legislation is passed, it'll be a very bad day for America." However, Democrats think that they have enough votes to get the bill passed.





FOXNews **Senators Reach Tentative Deal on \$805B Economic Stimulus Bill**

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

1426

Republican Sens. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Susan Collins of Maine have signed onto the bill, giving Democrats enough votes to move it forward. Senators, led by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Majority Leader Harry Reid, have been wrangling ...

 Video: Democrats Say Stimulus Plan Progressing AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

 Comment by Adam S. Posen Dep. Dir., Peterson Institute for Int'l Economics

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Betsy for Obama (2009-02-06 23:50:00)

Finally some change this country needs!! Keep on Barackin in the Free World Mr. President! I had to buy 3 of these shirts, one for me, my daughter and my husband :)

http://cgi.ebay.com/Barack-Obama-t-shirt-Keep-on-Barackin-in-the-Free-World_W0QQitemZ220356827122QQcmdZViewItemQQptZ-LH_DefaultDomain_0?hash=item220356827122 & _trksid=p3286.c0.m14 & _trkparms=72 %3A1205 %7C66 %3A2 %7C65 %3A12 %7C39 %3A1 %7C240 %3A1318 %7C301 %3A1 %7C293 %3A1 %7C294 %3A50

Obama stimulus package back up to \$820 bn (2009-02-07 09:37)

Senators negotiating the Obama economic stimulus plan have raised the price from \$780 billion last night to \$820 billion this morning.

Hundreds of amendments to the deal were voted on during last night's marathon session.

The plan is still strongly opposed by Republicans but three GOP senators have crossed over giving Obama just enough votes to get the legislation passed.

Tax cuts will now total about \$250 billion down from the original proposed \$275 billion. Senate Democrats agreed to cut \$100 billion in spending from their original plan.


Leading spending programs include infrastructure projects (\$116 billion), education funding (\$88 billion) and green energy development (\$40 billion).




USA Today **Senate forges deal on \$820 billion stimulus**

Christian Science Monitor - 1 hour ago

Key elements of the plan: a tax cut of up to \$1000 for working couples and a tax credit of \$15000 for home purchases. Senate negotiators struck a \$820 billion deal on Friday that eases the path for a massive economic recovery program.

 Video: Obama Talks Up Stimulus in Weekly Address AssociatedPress
[EMBED]

 Comment by Adam S. Posen Dep. Dir., Peterson Institute for Int'l Economics

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-02-08 13:09:00)

Survival foreign

I saw stars of David on shirts listed

In a concentration camp

I saw women being raped by heroes cowards

No reason

I saw the dictator soiling their pants in fear of hell that did

I saw boys become paraplegic, after feeding the mouth of the dragon

And a white man with the brain in the hood of a car

Hit by a shot that nobody knows where it came from

I saw the towers fall in the middle of the center

And everyone entering despair

I saw the tyrant hanged be impregnated with eyes of pride

And the terrorist hiding in the courtyard of the foreign

After not seen anything, everything was dark

But now, little by little I am recovering the vision

I see soldiers coming home

And a black man waving in the crowd

He brings in the face a smooth look

And carries a book in the hands

Sandro Kretus

Obama "Hope" poster creator arrested in Boston (2009-02-07 18:19)

Shepard Fairey, the person who created the famed Barack Obama poster was arrested in Boston today on graffiti charges.



Fairey made headlines this week when The Associated Press claimed the Obama "Hope" poster infringed on a copyrighted AP photograph. Fairey has acknowledged that his image was based on an April 2006 Associated Press photograph of Obama. Fairey has been arrested many times for drawing on buildings and other private property without permission.





x

Times Online Shepard Fairey, success

Boston Globe - 41 minutes ago

In some ways, it is not surprising. When people find success, other people get angry. They label those who are riding high "fakers" and "poseurs" and "pretenders" and other dismissive things.

Creator of iconic Obama portrait arrested Reuters

Artist of famed Obama poster arrested in Boston The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama hitting the road for stimulus bill (2009-02-09 09:20)

President Barack Obama is on the road pitching his economic stimulus package trying push a compromise with senate Republicans.

While the bill is likely to pass anyway tomorrow, Obama wants as many Republican votes as possible to present a semblance of bipartisan agreement. The House version of the bill passed with no Republican votes.

Obama and his media staff is trying to drum up public support for his plan putting pressure on the GOP to work with the administration.

In another sign of hard economic times, Nissan, Japan's third largest auto maker, said it was cutting 20,000 jobs worldwide.

Obama Team Counts on Public Polling to Push Economic Plan Through ...

FOXNews - 44 minutes ago

White House senior adviser David Axelrod tells FOX News the public is with the president as he tries to convince Congress to pass an economic package that is the largest single spending program since the New Deal.



Video: Obama Hits The Road CBS

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama gives first prime-time press conference tonight (2009-02-09 17:23)

At 8 pm ET tonight, President Barack Obama will hold his first prime-time press conference since taking office last month.

The press conference is part of a media effort, resembling tactics used during an election campaign, to attract public support for his economic stimulus package. The House bill received no Republican votes and just a few Senate Republicans are supporting the Senate version.

Obama spoke at a town hall-style meeting in a region of Indiana hit hard by the economic downturn.

On Tuesday, Obama will visit Fort Myers, Fla., an area suffering from the mortgage meltdown.



WELT ONLINE **Obama** Takes Economic Case to the Nation, in Prime-Time **Press ...**

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

President **Obama** will hold a **press** conference on the economic recovery plan at 8 pm ET Monday. President **Obama**, who spent the day stumping in an Indiana town ...



Video: Obama Calls for Swift Action on Economy AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

White House Cheat Sheet: Sending an (Economic) Message Washington Post

Obama Stumps for Stimulus in a City Hit Hard by Downturn New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2009-02-09 19:45)



FOXNews

Obama: Americans in 'winter of our hardship'

Los Angeles Times - 48 minutes ago

President Obama addresses the nation on the ongoing economic crisis, today at the White House. From the Associated Press WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama said today the crisis gripping the United States is the "winter of our hardship" as he pounded ...

Obama pitches economic plan to American people Reuters

Obama: This isn't your 'run-of-the-mill recession' CNN International

Obama: Not a "run-of-the-mill recession" (2009-02-10 09:38)

President Barack Obama last night described the economic malaise as "not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill recession." They might be a bit of an understatement. The economists that accurately predicted the recession sometimes with remarkable detail and timing see a very rocky road ahead. Analysts like Nouriel Roubini, Max Keiser, Nassim Taleb, Peter Schiff and others all see the same signs of gloom.

Debt and leveraging is still the main underlying problem. Because of the credit crunch this is easing up among consumers and businesses, but government is making up for this somewhat by borrowing trillions of dollars. It's difficult to predict how large the federal deficit will be before the year is out.

The job market is the worse its been since the Great Depression. Not only half a million job cuts a month but record numbers of companies initiating a hiring freeze to cut costs.

The housing meltdown is still a major problem. People continue to lose their homes depressing prices. Roubini thinks prices must fall by about 40 percent before bottoming out.

Despite an injection of \$350 billion into the credit markets over the winter, the credit market is still frozen. No one really knows for sure how much it will take to deleverage. Nouriel Roubini thinks it will take \$3.5 trillion over what has been appropriated thus far.

Companies are cutting back as much as 20 percent in new spending. 

Washington Post **Obama: Not a 'Run of the Mill' Recession**

ABC News - 19 hours ago

... which he called "not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill **recession**." President Barack **Obama** answers a question during his first prime time televised news ...

 Video: Obama brutally changes his tone france24english


[EMBED] **Obama: 'Only Government' Can Break Cycle of Job Loss, Economic ...** FOXNews

Obama Says Economic Crisis Comes First Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Senate approves stimulus bill (2009-02-10 15:03)

The Senate today approved a \$838 billion economic stimulus bill with three Republicans aboard for a 61-37 vote. Now the House and Senate negotiators will try to work out a compromise package. 

ABC News **Senate Approves Stimulus Plan**

New York Times - 4 hours ago

Senator Susan Collins of Maine, one of three Republican senators who voted for the economic stimulus bill, after its passage in the senate on Tuesday in Washington.

 Video: Raw Video: Senate Approves Stimulus Bill AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

 Comment by Allan J. Lichtman Professor of History, American University

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



1461Days (2009-02-10 16:23:00)

The Senate Approved the Stimulus and the Treasury announced a \$1.5 Trillion approach to the banking and financial industry problems. Join us at 1461 Days and share your thoughts and views on today's events.

ObamaMania YesWeCan (2009-02-10 21:53:00)

obamamania videos has better president obama videos
hooray

1,461 Days (2009-02-11 05:17:00)

now House and Senate reps have to work out the compromise quickly as President Obama still expects this bill on his desk by Monday. I am more concerned by the Treasury moves announced yesterday.

Obama calls for quick action to deal with economic "perfect storm" (2009-02-11 09:18)

President Barack Obama urged lawmakers to quickly approve a compromise bill in both the House and Senate to avoid further escalation of the economic crisis .

Obama described the economy's situation as the "perfect storm of financial problems."

Yesterday, Wall Street seemed to disapprove of Tim Geithner's plans for spending the remaining \$350 billion of financial bailout money. The Dow was down by more than 300 points, but actually it's impossible to say for sure what caused the decline given the amount of bad news that keeps pouring out.



Washington Post **Obama warns of 'perfect storm of financial problems'**

USA Today - 2 hours ago

Negotiators from the Obama administration and Congress resume negotiations today to resolve the differences between the economic stimulus plans approved by the House and Senate.

 Video: US Senate passes rescue plan RussiaToday

[EMBED] US Congress negotiators to meet on stimulus deal Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-02-13 07:02:00)

I understand what financial issues affecting U.S.

I would like to draw your attention to one of Bush mistakes, that was breaking financial relations with many countries and specially my home country; Sudan.

40 million will wish to use your banking systems and technology - consequently Sudanese money will be routed via U.S.

You can disregard my point, but then remember it is an equivalent equation to both of us and if you did not look at, I will say
Congratulation China YOU WON AND WE WILL BE AT YOUR REQUEST.

rgds

Congress, White House agree on stimulus deal (2009-02-11 14:56)

Congress and the White House agreed on an \$790 billion economic stimulus bill this evening. About one-third of the package comes in the form of tax cuts.

Republicans are mostly opposed to the legislation.

Here is President Obama 's reaction to the comprosie deal:

"I want to thank the Democrats and Republicans in Congress who came together around a hard-fought compromise that will save or create more than 3.5 million jobs and get our economy back on track.

"Just today, the CEO of Caterpillar said that if this American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan is passed, his company would be able to rehire some of the employees they've been forced to lay off. It's also a plan that will provide immediate tax relief to families and businesses, while investing in priorities like health care, education, energy, and infrastructure that will grow our economy once more.

"I'm grateful to the House Democrats for starting this process, and for members

in the House and Senate for moving it along with the urgency that this moment demands."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama celebrates Lincoln's bicentennial (2009-02-12 09:35)

President Barack Obama celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday appearing at the reopening last night of the Ford's Theater, the location where Lincoln was assassinated. The president also spoke before the Abraham Lincoln Association at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

Obama has often used Lincoln as a model for his own presidency.

[EMBED]

A new exhibit at Washington's National Portrait Gallery celebrates Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. As Thalia Assuras reports, the exhibit shows an unexpected side of Lincoln.



USA Today **Obama** draws from Abraham **Lincoln**

Dailyrecord.com, NJ - 7 hours ago

"He sees **Lincoln** as a model," said Fred Kaplan, author of "**Lincoln**: The Biography Of A Writer." "**Obama** echoes **Lincoln**." Also, as the nation's first black ...



Video: First of Four New Pennies Unveiled AssociatedPress

[EMBED]

2009 **Lincoln** Prize Winner Reflects on **Lincoln** and **Obama** OUPblog

Academics debate **Obama**, **Lincoln** similarities Utica Observer Dispatch

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama calls housing crisis urgent (2009-02-13 10:46)

President Barack Obama on Friday said it was crucial to deal with the housing sector crisis . He is expected to soon reveal a plan to tackle the continuing problem of mortgage foreclosures.

"We are going to have to once again live within our means," Obama told the Business Council.

"We need to confront the crisis in the housing sector that has been one of the sources of our economic challenges," he said. Congress are preparing to pass a \$789 billion stimulus bill to help restart the U.S. economy, which has been hit by low consumer and business spending. The plan is expected to create or save up to 4 million jobs.



FOXNews Winners and losers in the final stimulus bill

CNN - 38 minutes ago

High-speed and inner-city rail: Went from \$300 million in House bill to \$2.25 billion in Senate to \$8 billion in final version. There also is a \$6.9 billion provision for public transit.



Video: Stimulus deal reached by Congress

[EMBED]

Obama: Crucial to confront US housing crisis Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Will Republicans cooperate with Barack Obama? (2009-02-13 16:57)

The House of Representatives passed the economic stimulus bill today but no Republicans crossed over to support President Barack Obama's plan.

Indeed, seven Democrats voted against the party's leader's package to create new jobs and stimulate the economy.

Also today, Obama's new pick as commerce secretary, Judd Gregg, withdrew his nomination.

The Senate is voting on the bill now, but Obama is expected only to garner a few Republican votes.

Bipartisan cooperation may be more difficult than the president expected.

One always has to look at the political situation when analyzing what is going on in Washington. Obama might have a hard time finding Republican friends prior to the 2010 congressional elections. The idea goes is that they will try to draw clear lines between Republicans and the president. Of course, if things do not go well in 2010 for the GOP, then they might be more willing to cooperate with the administration.

US Senate Begins Voting on Obama's \$787 Billion Stimulus Plan

Bloomberg - 1 hour ago

By Brian Faler Feb. 13 (Bloomberg) – The Senate began voting on President Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus plan hours after the House, with no Republican votes, passed the package designed to help revive the US economy.

House passes \$787B stimulus CNNMoney.com

Stimulus Aims to Pump Life Into US Economy Voice of America

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama scores first victory of presidency (2009-02-14 12:46)

President Barack Obama signed his first major legislation today – 24 days after his inauguration – after Congress approved his economic stimulus plan.

The final bill fell a tad short under the amount Obama requested, but fundamentally the president got what he wanted.

A new website – recovery.gov – will allow the public to peruse disclosure on where the stimulus money is spent, and to offer comments and suggestions.



guardian.co.uk **Obama Scores Early Victory of Historic Proportions**

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

By Michael D. Shear and Alec MacGillis CHICAGO, Feb. 13 – Twenty-four days into his presidency, Barack Obama recorded last night a legislative achievement of the sort that few of his predecessors achieved at any point in their tenure.



Video: Obama: Stimulus Passage Is a 'Major Milestone AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Congress Approves Protectionist Measure That Could Spark Trade War FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-01-23 06:53:39)

Hello everyone! Who knows where to upload the film Avatar?

I even bought the film Avatar for a SMS to <http://rsskino.ru/kinofilm/avatar.html> , the link was, but download fails, the system will boot quite strange cocoa something.

Men, advise where to normal as quickly download film avatar?


Obama team says stimulus is bipartisan (2009-02-15 20:00)

White House spokespersons Bob Gibbs and David Axelrod said that the economic stimulus bill is inspired by thinking from both parties even if it gained only supported by three Republicans, all from the Senate.

Republicans, led by Sen. John McCain, continued to fume over the package and denied that Obama made sincere efforts to negotiate with them.

Obama is expected to sign the bill into law on Tuesday in Denver.


Speaking on the auto bailout, Axelrod said there would need to be "significant restructuring" if automakers are going to continue to receive public funds.

"And that's going to involve concessions on the part of everyone, not just the autoworkers, but shareholders, creditors and, of course, the executives who run the company," Axelrod said. "And that's what we're going to have to see." 

Times Online **Obama Aides Claim Bipartisan Success**

Washington Post - 10 hours ago

By Michael D. Shear CHICAGO, Feb. 15 – Senior advisers to President Obama on Sunday defended passage of the stimulus bill in Congress as a bipartisan effort despite the fact that it received only three Republican votes in the Senate and none in the ...

 Video: Republicans Still Criticizing Stimulus Bill AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama targets housing after stimulus victory AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Auto task force rather than czar (2009-02-16 16:00)

The White House said Monday that an auto czar is out with a Presidential Task Force on Autos taking its place. General Motors Corp. and Chrysler will be heading back to Washington with new plans on how they will restructure their companies.

"Well, the approach that the administration has settled on I think provides a vast amount of expertise that crosses a number of governmental agencies and departments, and brings in the vast amount of experience that the administration has to deal with the auto restructuring – any auto restructuring issues," press secretary Bob Gibbs told reporters aboard Air Force One. "So I think that the model that's been set up with Secretary Geithner and Dr. Summers is one that will help coordinate throughout the federal government the responses that include energy, transportation, as well as the economic team."

Treasury secretary Tim Geithner will oversee the \$17.4 billion in loans for GM and Chrysler.

President Barack Obama has held firm on his insistence that those auto makers receiving bailout money must have plans to restructure their factories to produce clean, fuel-efficient cars for the future.



ABC News **White House confirms auto task force**

DetNews.com - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON – The White House confirmed Monday it is naming a Presidential Task Force on Autos, rather than an auto czar to oversee the restructuring of General Motors Corp.

 Video: Obama Cuts Plans for 'Car Czar'

AssociatedPress

GM And Chrysler Head Back To DC With New Plans NPR

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama stimulus benefits for average American (2009-02-17 08:00)

President Barack Obama will sign the economic stimulus bill into law today.
Here are some of the benefits going directly to ordinary people:


About \$116 billion for those who make less than \$75,000 a year who have taxes withheld. Individuals will get \$400; couples, \$800.

About \$15 less deduction from paychecks starting in July this year, and \$7.50 a week next year.

2009 earnings from \$200,000 to \$500,000 will get about a \$4,800 income tax break in 2010. For incomes of \$75,000 to \$100,000, the 2010 tax savings will be \$500. This benefit seems a bit more geared toward lower-tiered wealthy individuals.

Income of \$10,000 from \$19,000 will be the new requirement for the full \$1,000 a child income tax credit.

A \$2,500 income tax credit for tuition and related expenses for 2009 and 2010.

The Earned Income Tax Credit provides a \$5,000 benefit to low-income families and will be worth \$5,600 for 2010 taxes. 

Washington Post **The Early Word: The Bill Becomes Law**

New York Times - 36 minutes ago

By Michael Falcone After a hard-fought battle on Capitol Hill last week, President Barack Obama plans to sign the stimulus bill today.

 Video: What the Stimulus Bill May Do for You AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Obama Promoting Agenda In Key Battleground States U.S. News & World Report

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-02-17 20:45:00)

Sung to the tune of Janice Joplin's: O Lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz)

OBama, won't you pay off my mortgage for me?

My payments have risen; they want to take my home.

I lied about my income, but they still made me the loan.

So OBama won't you pay off my mortgage for me?

OBama, won't you buy me a HD TV ?

The airwaves are digital, now static's all I see.

I can't miss the next thing you offer us for free,

So Obama, won't you buy me a HD TV ?

OBama, won't you buy me a hybrid SUV?

My car is a junker. Its rusting out on me.

We all know autos must be green and gasoline free,

OBama, won't you buy me a hybrid SUV?

Everybody!

OBama, won't you pay off my mortgage for me?

My payments have risen; they want to take my home.
I lied about my income, but they still made me the loan.
So OBama won't you pay off my mortgage for me?

Jon (2009-02-17 21:01:00)

I'm sure Obama is legitimately doing what is required of him based on the current situation. If that's the case, one has to wonder whether he'll be forced to do the exact same thing two years from now and send more troops to Iraq following a withdrawal. For more check out <http://www.TalkObama.info>

Obama Mama (2009-02-17 22:52:00)

Obama All The Way
<http://obama2009.com>

joy28 (2009-02-18 19:49:00)

Though others may consider the stimulus bill not to be a good plan, what matters is how the president handles the situation. The economic recovery may take for a while but at least he had his plans already laid down.

Obama reveals new \$75 billion mortgage plan (2009-02-18 13:21)

President Barack Obama unveiled today his plan to stem housing foreclosures, a problem that helped spark the current economic crisis.

In Mesa, Arizona, Obama said the government would commit \$75 billion to a package that would help homeowners refinance their home and provide extra credit backing to the government's Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage companies.

"This plan will not save every home, but it will give millions of families resigned to financial ruin a chance to rebuild," Obama said. "It will prevent the worst consequences of this crisis from wreaking even greater havoc on the economy. And by bringing down the foreclosure rate, it will help to shore up housing prices for everyone."

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama unveiled his \$75 billion mortgage relief plan, a series of measures the president says will keep 9 million people from losing their homes. (Feb. 18)



Boston Globe **Obama Unveils \$75 Billion Plan to Fight Home Foreclosures**

New York Times - 30 minutes ago

Speaking in Mesa, Ariz., President Obama said that the housing bailout would "prevent the worst consequences of this crisis from wreaking even greater havoc on the economy.

Republicans, analysts question Obama's foreclosure plan CNN International

Government Doubles Available Aid to Fannie and Freddie Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jon (2009-02-18 23:44:00)

I'm sure Obama is legitimately doing what is required of him based on the current situation. If that's the case, one has to wonder whether he'll be forced to do the exact same thing two years from now and send more troops to Iraq following a withdrawal. For more check out <http://www.TalkObama.info>

humancafe (2009-02-21 10:52:00)

This should be announced as a long term solution to our nation's banking problem.

To solve the present banking panic, especially by those who call for bank nationalization (what reduced bank shares to penny stocks), and to stem the sudden loss of trust in our financial institutions; would it not be best to utilize a tool the government has, what is called the US Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund, to commence a program of bank stock stabilization by buying shares into the public coffers (with intention of selling them at a future date), and thus bring back stability to the damaged market place? What is most at risk today is trust in our banking system, a trust without which it cannot exist. This fix will cost less than current proposals, and give banking the room to right itself from this mortgage debacle.

Obama to make first foreign trip to Canada (2009-02-18 18:39)

President Barack Obama will make his first foreign trip to Canada as his foreign policy team fans out in all directions. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Japan as her first foreign stop having a formal meeting with the Empress and a meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister. Clinton encouraged Japan to spend more on economic stimulus. Japan's economy contracted sharply in the latest government reports.

Traditionally new American presidents make their first foreign trip to Canada although George W. Bush choose to visit Mexico first instead. Obama will make a short visit to Ottawa on Thursday.

Clinton landed in Indonesia today and will also visit South Korea and China. Her choice of Asia as her first foreign jaunt is also telling as the traditional practice for the secretary of state is to visit Europe first.



BBC News The **Obama** team hits the road in fresh directions

Seattle Times, United States - Feb 17, 2009

PRESIDENT **Obama's** first official foreign travel is to **Canada**, a longtime friend, ally and primary trading partner. The choice is not going unnoticed. ...



Video: Clinton Touts Stimulus Abroad

CBS

[EMBED] White House to Host Japanese PM Aso Next Week FOXNews

President **Obama** to Host Japanese Premier Aso ABC News

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Corina Liliana Blidea (2009-02-19 10:02:00)

good luck and do all the best, kisses for all family

Journalist, Corina Liliana Blidea

(2009-02-19 08:49)

President Barack Obama was greeted by Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean upon arriving in Ottawa for his first foreign visit.

Obama will meet separately with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and opposition leader Michael Ignatieff. Among the items on the agenda are trade, the environment and the war in Afghanistan.

Canada is hoping Obama will remain committed to NAFTA and the WTO. Also, they are worried that about environmental opposition to the type of "dirty" oil exported from Canada that produces a larger carbon footprint.

Obama will also discuss Canada's plan to pull out its troops from Afghanistan by 2011.

X



Thu Feb 19, 11:03 AM ET

President Barack Obama is escorted by Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean upon his arrival in Ottawa, Canada, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak) Obama Arrives in Canada for First International Trip

Washington Post - 44 minutes ago

By Michael D. Shear OTTAWA, Feb. 19 – President Obama touched down Thursday morning in this snowy Canadian capital – his first foray outside the United States as president – and headed for discussion of trade and the environment with Prime Minister ...

Afghanistan, trade on table as Obama visits Canada CNN International



Comment by Pat Gallagher Director of Environmental Law, Sierra Club

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama raises Nafta issue in Canada (2009-02-19 16:08)

President Barack Obama raised the touchy issue of the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) during his visit to Canada today.

"My hope is as our advisers and staffs and economic teams work this through that there's a way of doing this that is not disruptive to the extraordinarily important trade relationship that exists between the two countries," he said.

Canada has been worried about Obama stance on free trade and also the call for a "Buy American" provision on the economic stimulus package. The US president watered down the buy American clause in the final bill, and has stated that he is careful to avoid a possible trade war.

X

Seattle Post Intelligencer Obama raises Nafta renegotiation during first official visit to Canada

guardian.co.uk - 1 hour ago

Barack Obama and Stephen Harper take questions from the media during a news conference in Ottawa. Photograph: Larry Downing/Reuters Potential strains in relations between the US and Canada were exposed today when Barack Obama, on his first foreign trip ...

Barack the Tourist Christian Science Monitor

 Comment by Pat Gallagher Director of Environmental Law, Sierra Club

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama pledges to cut deficit in half by 2013 (2009-02-21 14:29)

Despite the large sums needed for bailouts, President Barack Obama still plans to slash the budget deficit in half by 2013.

Obama plans to cut military spending by withdrawing troops from Iraq, and to raise money by increasing taxes on the wealthy.


During the campaign, Obama promised to roll back the tax cuts made by George W. Bush.

On Monday, Obama will convene a fiscal summit with experts to formulate a strategy to address the trillion dollar deficit.

However, the president will not cut back in all areas and still intends to make changes that he pledged during the campaign.

"The president believes there are essentially three areas that have to move forward even as we pare back elsewhere — health care, energy and education," said senior Obama adviser David Axelrod. "These are the bulwark of a strong economy moving forward."

[EMBED]

During his weekly address, President Obama outlined what the stimulus package and his home foreclosure plan can do to help turn around the nation's economy. President Obama plans to address a joint session of Congress Tuesday night. 

AFP Obama Pledges to Seek Deficit Cuts

New York Times, United States - 10 hours ago

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG WASHINGTON — President Obama pledged on Saturday to look for ways to "cut the trillion-dollar deficit we inherited," and said he was ...

Obama to Unveil an Ambitious Budget Plan Washington Post

Obama wants to cut US deficit in half by 2013 Reuters

Obama urges control of 'exploding' deficits AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



New focus on health care (2009-02-22 07:38)

After struggling in the early days of his campaign with an economic crisis he did not anticipate during the early part of his campaign, President Barack Obama will focus on health care this week.

A report by the Center for American Progress Action estimates that 4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since the start of the recession. A further estimated 14,000 lose their insurance every day.

Obama's health care plan seeks to control prescription drug prices, switch to electronic medical record-keeping and improve medical treatment and efficiency. The administration is currently looking for a health secretary after Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination due to tax problems.



Report: 4 million Americans lost health insurance since recession ...

Bizjournals.com - 2 hours ago

An estimated 4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since the recession began, and as many as 14000 people could be losing their health coverage every day, according to a report by liberal think tank Center for American Progress' Action ...

Stimulus bails out states, puts off health care reform Atlanta Journal Constitution

Obama has big challenge in overhauling health care The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



AraMellow (2009-02-23 01:16:00)

Dear Mr. Obama;

I would like to invite your family to watch my iTV show, where I discuss the selection of a dog for the first family.

Best regards

Aramellow (The Lomen Beagle)

Clinton ends jaunt in China (2009-02-22 16:27)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was interviewed on Chinese TV and called on China to continue financing U.S. debt to prevent further sliding of the world economy.

China has the world's largest foreign reserve account at around US \$1.7 trillion.

Clinton attended a service at the Haidian Christian Church in Beijing on Sunday, and met with a group of a group of 22 women's-rights advocates. China is the last stop on Clinton's Asia tour, her first foreign jaunt as secretary of state.



guardian.co.uk **Clinton** urges China to sustain US economic support

Los Angeles Times, CA - 3 hours ago

Secretary of State Hillary **Clinton** chats with a Chinese church official as she leaves the Haidian Christian Church in Beijing. We're all in this together, ...



Video: Clinton Interviewed on Chinese TV AssociatedPress

[EMBED] Reports: On first state visit, **Clinton** highlights US-China ... MarketWatch

Clinton Urges China to Keep Buying US Debt Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



PG-GEETHAI (2009-02-23 09:09:00)

nice blog man,support a.r rahman?

<http://www.pgtricks.blogspot.com>


Comment: Should Obama mind the stock market (2009-02-23 14:47)

The Dow Jones sunk to its lowest point since 1997 shedding 250 points today. So should President Barack Obama react in some way to the recent market slides?

In my view, no, for the following reasons:

1. A lot of the daily fluctuation in the markets comes from day and swing traders. You cannot base your policy on the whims of these folk whose actions do not necessarily reflect any economic reality.
2. Obama needs to let the market bottom out. Trying to prop up the market is an impossible black hole operation. Only one word needs to be said to explain why the market has not reached bottomed out yet – derivatives. The White House should let the markets work out things naturally without trying to play to the market.

[EMBED]

President Obama told the nation's governors who were attending his first formal White House dinner, that all governors, despite party affiliation, need to work with Washington to help repair the economy. 

FOXNews **Stress test could lead to some bank nationalization**

MarketWatch - 51 minutes ago

By Ronald D. Orol, MarketWatch WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) – As part of the latest efforts by regulators to stem the financial crisis, US regulators are preparing another round of capital injections to financial institutions that fail to pass a new ...

Banks Rally, But Stocks Still Down Forbes

Regulators Stand Firmly Behind Banking System CNNMoney.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama likely to select Gov. Locke as commerce secretary (2009-02-23 17:45)

President Barack Obama is likely to pick former Washington Gov. Gary Locke to be his commerce secretary, CNN reported Monday.

Locke, 57, became the first Chinese-American to be elected as governor of a state in 1996, and he was re-elected in 2000.

Obama's first two choices for commerce secretary both withdrew their nominations. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was the first choice before he resigned due to a corruption investigation. The president then selected New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg, a Republican, who also eventually withdrew citing policy differences with Obama and pressure from within his party.

X

BBC News Obama likely to tap Locke for commerce, sources say

CNN - 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – President Barack Obama's pick for commerce secretary is likely to be former Washington Gov. Gary Locke, two administration sources told CNN Monday.

Officials: Obama Likely to Tap Former Washington Gov. Locke for ... FOXNews

'Likely' US Commerce chief named BBC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

the Last Inspector (2009-02-24 10:37:00)

There are some important national security and anti-corporate corruption reasons Locke should be looked at carefully before being given this critical post:

<http://eastmans.web.aplus.net/pblog/index.php>

His families' close China heritage and his supporting the management of the corporation currently most akin to Enron while he was Governor of Washington state is problematic--most notably for our national security.

China is an extremely fickle trading partner to the U.S. who plans militarily against us behind the scenes and has spies in place in this country.

We need a Commerce secretary who is not blinded by his perhaps overly benign and personally skewed view of the true intentions and plans of the Chinese government.

Obama set to address Congress tonight (2009-02-24 09:16)

President Barack Obama will give first address to Congress tonight.

The president is expected to give a "sober assessment" focusing on the economy and other key issues like health care.

Tonight's speech is not considered a "state of the union" address as Obama has not been in office long enough yet to give such an official assessment.

Many analysts believe Obama must get the people to feel that he is doing the right thing and to support him despite the gloom in the economy.

A bad economy does not necessarily harm the chief executive. Franklin D. Roosevelt, for example, was reelected

twice during the Great Depression and served a total of four terms.

Even in those days when media was less sophisticated and people were less educated, they still were able to discern that Roosevelt was not to blame for the structural problems that caused the financial and economic collapse. Even though the markets bottomed out during his first term, the people still believed in his efforts to mend the economy and catch those falling through the wide gaps in the job market.



ABC News President's Address to Congress Billed as 'Sober Assessment'

ABC News - 1 hour ago

By JAKE TAPPER and MARK MOONEY President Obama will give the nation a "sober assessment" about the status of the country's economy tonight as he assures Americans that there are "better days ahead," according to White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.



Video: Economy to Dominate Obama Speech

[EMBED]

Borger: Q & A session showed Obama engaging opponents CNN International

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Erin (2009-02-24 13:52:00)

Tomorrow, 2/25 at 12:30, Brookings and Politico are kicking off a series of live web chats. We'll have Brookings expert Bill Galston and Politico Senior Editor Fred Barbash on hand to answer questions about President Obama's first address to a joint session of congress. The stakes are high leading up to this speech, and tomorrow's chat will assess what President Obama has to say.

We thought you might be interested in participating in the chat. If so, please feel free to send in some questions in advance.

Or, you can register for the chat here:

http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/0225_obama_speech_chat.aspx

We'd love to see you there!

Barack Obama's first address to Congress (2009-02-24 20:42)

President Barack Obama gave his first speech before Congress tonight, which was followed by a Republican rebuttal from Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Obama set a high bar for his presidency recommitting himself to his campaign promises despite the deep recession and the sky-rocketing deficit.

Pledging to forge ahead on issues like clean energy and health care, Obama also said that he was still intent on deeply slashing the deficit before the end of his first term.

The president also spoke on security issues reiterating his campaign promise to end the Iraq War while at the same time focusing on al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Bobby Jindal, who has been put forth as a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2012, had a fairly sharp response this early in the game, criticizing the Democrats for excessive spending and encouraging dependence on government.

Some of the media polling suggests that Obama's speech was generally well received. Obama sought to inspire hope

and optimism in the face of a serious economic crisis.



FOXNews Obama Assures Nation: 'We Will Rebuild'

New York Times - 42 minutes ago

By JEFF ZELENY WASHINGTON - President Obama urged the nation on Tuesday to see the economic crisis as reason to raise its ambitions, calling for expensive new efforts to address energy, health care and education programs even as he warned that more ...

Obama still has an ambitious agenda Los Angeles Times

Obama Says Country Will Rebuild, Recover in Wake of Recession FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Produk Jogja (2009-02-25 05:57:00)

wow

President Obama

Lucky02 (2009-02-25 19:02:00)

This website has some interesting thoughts about this... check it out

<http://economyopinions.blogspot.com/>

Anonymous (2009-02-26 09:59:00)

Hi Obama,

In the name of re-building the Nation, Please do consider the humans who are in the Non-Immigrant Status and Green Card suffering from restrictions.

Alternate Idea would be keep the Non-Immigrant People and Green Card but restrict them sending the \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ to the other countries and allow them to spend in the USA.

H1-B person and **H1-B "Master's Degree Holder in USA"** are being treated the same except the 20000 separate quota.

"Pain in getting the degress gone in vein". Please think becuse of this many master's degree students are not getting chance to implement there development in USA. They all are being shifted to other countries.

People who are specialized in the field are treated in the same way who are not specialized in the particular field. Please have the new quota (let say "Z1-B") with less restrictions in rules rather than **"H1-B MASTERS"** which treats them same as the "Non Specialized **Normal H1-B**" which will bring the **US Economy back from Turmoil**.

Michelle Obama: Portuguese water dog for girls (2009-02-25 18:48)

First Lady Michelle Obama said that the family is looking for a Portuguese water dog as a pet for her daughters Sasha and Malia, People Magazine reported.

Sen. Edward Kennedy may have influenced the Obama's decision as he owns two water dogs.

In January, Kennedy said that he was "proud to endorse the Portuguese water dog as the next First Dog of the United States".

"They have a can-do and hopeful spirit. They are smart. They are resilient. They are determined. They are optimistic. And they are tireless," he said.

"Sounds like a perfect fit for the Obama Family and the Obama administration."

The Portuguese water dog is said to be hypoallergenic and thus is suitable for Malia, 10, who suffers from asthma.



This Nov. 27, 2006 file photo shows Portuguese water dog "Splash," U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy's dog, as he approaches Nicholas Davis, 9, of Boston, right, while Kennedy reads to children at the Knight Children's Center in Boston. Kennedy's wife Victoria Reggie Kennedy, background, looks on. First lady Michelle Obama has told People magazine the family is considering getting a Portugese water dog, possibly in April. (AP Photo/Chitose Suzuki, File)



guardian.co.uk Obama girls 'to have a water dog'

BBC News - 2 hours ago

US First Lady Michelle Obama wants to find a rescued Portuguese water dog as a pet for her daughters, People magazine has reported.

Michelle Obama says White House "feels so good" Reuters

Michelle Obama opts for \$395 Tracy Reese dress on People magazine ... New York Daily News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-02-26 09:36:00)

This amount can be helping one month Medical Insurance.

Obama unveils \$3.6 trillion budget, \$1.75 trillion deficit (2009-02-26 09:34)

Republicans will certainly pounce on the latest news from the Obama administration revealing a proposed \$3.6 trillion budget for 2010.

Obama's plan includes up to \$750 billion in additional bailout money for banks, and a \$1.75 trillion deficit. A "reserve fund" of \$634 billion will be used to help pay for the president's universal health care plan.

To pay for the proposed budget increase, Obama plans a series of tax rate increases including one on the top bracket individuals making more than \$200,000 a year. Families making more than \$250,000 a year will also have their deductions reduced.

Capital gains tax rates for people in the top tax bracket would increase to 20 percent, up from 15 percent.

Some \$353 billion over 10 years will be raised through "revenue changes and loophole closures" for business entities. Obama also plans to raise \$645 billion through a pollution tax using a cap-and-trade system that allows less-polluting

companies to sell carbon credits to those who produce more pollution.

 BBC News

Obama Budget Sees \$1.75 Trillion Deficit

New York Times - 56 minutes ago

President Obama, with Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner, spoke about the budget on Thursday at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington.

Obama Unveils \$3.6 Trillion Budget, Sets Aside Billions for Health ... FOXNews

Obama submits budget blueprint CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jonny (2009-02-26 16:38:00)

For those that missed the President's address yesterday, he offered up a whole lot of promises: rebuilding the economy, reforming health care, addressing education, solving the world's energy crisis. Just about the only thing he didn't promise was the moon, which I suspect he's saving for his state of the union address. For more check out <http://www.TalkObama.info>

Obama sets troop withdrawal target (2009-02-27 11:11)

President Barack Obama , speaking to troops at the Camp Lejeune marine base, set a time line for pulling out of Iraq in 18 months.

Obama said that a force of between 35,000 to 50,000 would remain in Iraq, however, to train Iraqi troops and conduct limited military operations. The latter number is rather large, representing about a third of the current U.S. military presence in Iraq, and is likely to draw criticism from more liberal members of his own party, and even some anti-war Republicans.

Obama said that the plan was a signal to Iraq's leadership to begin taking responsibility for their own country.

"We cannot sustain indefinitely a commitment that has put a strain on our military, and will cost the American people nearly a trillion dollars," he said.

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama has drawn the finish line in Iraq. The president says US combat in Iraq will end by Aug. 31, 2010. (Feb. 27)

Obama sets Iraq deadline, unveils new strategy

Reuters - 1 hour ago

By Ross Colvin and Jeff Mason CAMP LEJEUNE, NC, Feb 27 (Reuters) - President Barack Obama said on Friday he would pull US combat troops out of Iraq in 18 months as he unveiled a new strategy that stressed diplomacy and engagement with foes like Iran ...

Iraq withdrawal plan in factors and figures Los Angeles Times

Democrats voice concerns on Obama's Iraq drawdown plan CNN International

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Battle lines forming over Obama budget (2009-02-27 19:59)

As news came out that the recession in the fourth quarter of last year was deeper than previously thought, Democrats and Republicans prepared to battle over President Barack Obama's budget.

Despite the apparent "tax and spend" nature of the Obama plan, many Democrats embrace the administration's frank honest approach as compared to the "fudgeting" so frequent in recent times. Washington has perfected the technique of massaging stats to hide the structural problems in the economy.

On the other side of the aisle, Republicans are digging their trenches for a major battle hoping that some conservative Democrats will defect to their side. Top Republicans have been using words like "socialism" and "socialist" to describe Obama's plan to spend the country's way out of a deep recession or even an economic depression. However, few could argue that the country has not faced this type of troubled economy since the Great Depression of last century. Also, the truth is that taxes are very near historical lows at the present especially for the wealthiest Americans. The last time the top bracket earners paid rates lower than today's was just before the market crash of 1929.

[EMBED]

IN THE FIELD: US President Barack Obama's proposed budget, unveiled on Thursday, anticipates an economic contraction of 1.2 % in 2009, though his projections were more optimistic than those of the Congressional Budget Office.



guardian.co.uk

Cautiously, Democratic lawmakers embrace Obama's budget

San Jose Mercury News - 52 minutes ago

By Carl Hulse and David M. Herszenhorn WASHINGTON - For years, congressional Democrats tried to avoid anything that would let Republicans slap the tax-and-spend label on them.

Comment by Frances Beinecke President, Natural Resources Defense Council

Republicans set course in Congress budget battle Reuters

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The Intellectual Redneck (2009-02-28 05:29:00)

Taxing the rich at 100 % won't pay for Obama's budget. The Wall Street Journal has reported that taxing the rich at 100 % won't pay for Obama's budget. Barack Obama promised not to raise taxes on anyone making under \$250,000 per year. Where is he going to get the money? The numbers indicate Obama will need to take 100 % of the income of everyone making over \$75,000.

Comment: Going to battle (2009-02-28 09:12)

As the debate over the Obama budget moves forward, the big battle that many of us have waited for may come to pass.

For some two decades now, the mantra that taxes are the root of all evil and that we must continually shrink "government" has dominated the scene. Not only Republicans but a good number of Democrats supported the view, and

apparently so did those who bothered to vote.

During that time we have seen how the vast bulk of people in America have seen their wealth steadily transferred to the richest 5 percent and particularly the richest 1 percent of the population.

While many average Americans often complain about taxes, the truth is that taxes now are very low but not so much for the middle class. For the wealthy they are near historical lows.

The strategy of lowering taxes to "grow" the economy has been tried before.

Starting in 1922, the top bracket rate was lowered from 76 % to 56 % and it gradually continued lower reaching a bottom of 24 % in 1929, the year of the great stock market crash. The lowest bracket earners at the time payed only 0.34 % income taxes at that time.

As the Great Depression rolled in, the government began trying to spend its way out of troubles, but was not successful until World War II necessitated a vast amount of spending to fund the troops. At the height of the war, the top tax rate hit 94 %.

Since then it has been at least 70 %, and usually higher, until Ronald Reagan began lowering the rate significantly. The bracket system has also changed significantly allowing the super-rich to be taxed at the same rate as the barely rich. Ordinary citizens have been encouraged to spend their savings and to borrow heavily in order to propel the economy forward. Businesses have been urged to act in the same way. However, the super wealthy have saved big time usually squirreling the money away in the rigged derivatives game that protects them from loss.

So it comes as no surprise that the rich have been taking an increasingly larger piece of the economic pie.

Now long ago, people found out that capitalism doesn't work well when left unregulated. Power tends to accumulate; money follows money. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

That's why they enacted anti-trust laws way back then, because monopolies allow the richest to destroy competition. What becomes apparent is that history has in many ways repeated itself. The lure of big bucks, the idolization of corporate magnates, etc. lulled people into a state of suggestion and repeated utterances of the same old mantras.

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X

Anonymous (2009-03-01 21:29:00)

This history is interesting. I have heard the argument that Obama's plan could hurt the non-profit organizations because the rich won't have as much money to contribute. I am curious to know what population most non-profit organizations help. Although I do think that non-profits are a great way to help people out, I have to wonder if we are not helping those same people out more by allowing their hard earned dollars to reach a little farther. You can give a man a fish and he eats for a day, but if you teach him to fish he eats for a lifetime!

Anonymous (2009-03-03 05:40:00)

Sometimes, I wonder why I bother fighting so hard for the little guy. Whats the point if they are too stupid to listen? Say that reminds me.

Amazing. The worst economic and cultural crisis of all time will go down in history horribly misunderstood. What a pathetic bunch of ignorant fools we have become. Consumer junkie credit card morons. Perfect little victims.

Don't believe one optimistic word from any public figure about the economy or humanity in general. They are part of the problem. Its like a game of Monopoly. In America, the richest 1 %, now hold ALMOST 1/2 OF ALL UNITED STATES WEALTH. Unlike 'lesser' estimates, this includes all stocks, bonds, cash, offshore accounts, and material assets held by America's richest 1 %. Even that filthy pig Oprah Winfrey acknowledged that it was near 50 % in 2006. Naturally, she put her own 'humanitarian' spin on it. Calling attention to her own 'good will'. WHAT A DISGUSTING SELF-CENTERED SELF-PROMOTING HYPOCRITE SLOB. THE RICHEST ONE PERCENT HAVE LITERALLY MADE WORLD PROSPERITY ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE. Don't fall for any of their 'good will' 'humanitarian' CRAP. ITS A SHAM. THESE PEOPLE ARE CAUSING THE SAME PROBLEMS THEY PRETEND TO CARE ABOUT. THE EQUATION THEY STAND FOR ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT WORK. Ask any professor of economics. Money does not grow on trees. The government can't just print up more on a whim. There are serious consequences for doing so. Regardless,

there is always a relative limit to the wealth within ANY economy of ANY size. So when too much wealth accumulates at the top, the currency loses value, the middle class slip further into debt, and the lower class further into poverty. A similar rule applies worldwide. The world's richest 1 % now own over 40 % of ALL WORLD WEALTH. This is EVEN AFTER you account for all of this 'good will' 'humanitarian' BS from celebrities and executives. ITS A SHAM. As they get richer and richer, less wealth is left circulating beneath them. This is the single greatest underlying cause for the current US recession. The middle class can no longer afford to pay all the bills or sustain their share of the economy. Their wealth has been gradually transferred to the richest 1 %. One way or another, we suffer because of their incredible greed. We are talking about TRILLIONS of dollars which have been transferred FROM US TO THEM. All over a period of about 27 years. That's Reaganomics for you. The wealth does not 'trickle down' as we were told it would. It just accumulates at the top. Shrinking the middle class and expanding the lower class. Causing a domino effect of socio-economic problems. But the rich will never stop. They just keep getting richer. Leaving even less of the pie for the other 99 % of us to share. At the same time, they throw back a few tax deductible crumbs and call themselves 'humanitarians'. Cashing in on the PR and getting even richer the following year. IT CAN'T WORK THIS WAY. Their bogus efforts to make the world a better place can not possibly succeed. Any 'humanitarian' progress made in one area will be lost in another. EVERY SINGLE TIME. IT ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT WORK THIS WAY. This is going to end very much like a giant game of Monopoly. The current US recession will drag on for years and lead into the worst US depression of all time. The richest 1 % will live like royalty while the rest of us fight over jobs, food, and gasoline. So don't fall for any of this 'good will' 'humanitarian' BS from Hollywood, Pro Sports, and Wall Street PIGS. ITS A SHAM. Remember: They are filthy rich EVEN AFTER their tax deductible contributions. They get richer as we speak. They absolutely will not stop. Greedy pigs. Now, we are headed for the worst economic and cultural crisis of all time. Crime, poverty, and suicide will skyrocket. SEND A "THANK YOU" NOTE TO YOUR FAVORITE MILLIONAIRE. ITS THEIR FAULT. I'm not discounting other factors like China, sub-prime, or gas prices. But all of those factors combined still pale in comparison to that HUGE transfer of wealth from poor to rich. Anyway, those other factors are related and further aggravated because of GREED. If it weren't for the OBSCENE distribution of bottom line wealth within our country, there never would have been such a market for sub-prime to begin with. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE OBSCENE, UNREASONABLE, ILLOGICAL, AND IMMORAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNITED STATES WEALTH, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A MARKET FOR SUB-PRIME AND THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A COLLAPSE IN THE HOUSING MARKET. Sub-prime did not cause the problem. It only accelerated the outcome. Make no mistake. The housing market would have been in decline by now with or without sub-prime. Which by the way, was another trick whipped up by greedy bankers and executives. IT MADE THEM RICHER. Along with many investors, developers, and public figures. Including three of the most greedy, disgusting, hypocrite pigs that have ever lived. The credit industry has been ENDORSED for years by Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, and Dr Phil. In fact, they specifically endorsed Countrywide by name. IT MADE THEM RICHER. In order to fully appreciate this, you must realize what a rotten trick Countrywide had up their sleeve to begin with. How it was ENDORSED by OPRAH WINFREY, ELLEN DEGENERES, AND DR PHIL. How incredibly irresponsible they were. How they deceived and betrayed their own loyal fans. How they were PAID FOR IT. How they contributed to the artificial rise and accelerated fall of the US housing market. Not only by concentrating so much wealth. Not only by flaunting their own extravagant lifestyles. Not only by promoting this unrealistic concept of 'bigger, better, faster, upscale' EVERYTHING. But also by endorsing sub-prime. How many middle class dreams were shattered because of their GREED. Don't believe what you've heard from them or any other filthy rich public figure. THEY ARE LIARS. It wasn't just about irresponsible lending, borrowing, local banker bonuses, or weak oversight. That was going on BEFORE sub-prime. It was actually much more cruel and calculated. Orchestrated from the top down. 'Predatory lending' is just that. Their plan was to give easy credit to millions while the housing market was still high, inflate the market even higher in the process, reap two or three years of payments from unsuspecting middle class buyers, allow them to accumulate little or no equity, lie in wait as those homes increased in value, then jack up their rates making it near impossible for those middle class buyers to make the payments on time. At which time, those middle class buyers would be evicted, their dreams shattered, and their homes forfeited. Which by then, until mid '07', would be even higher in value and re-sold for a higher price. The plan was to be executed primarily while the market was strong. Leaving all those previous buyers with NOTHING to show for all those payments made. This incredibly cruel and calculated plan was orchestrated in part by Countrywide. THE SAME COUNTRYWIDE ENDORSED BY OPRAH WINFREY, ELLEN DEGENERES, AND DR PHIL. IT MADE THEM RICHER. It also made many of their loyal fans homeless. What a rotten, disgusting trio of hypocrite pigs. What a rotten, disgusting, immoral way to turn a quick buck. To make as many people as possible love you. Then tell those people to run out and buy a product or service because you say so. Because you were PAID to endorse it. Without the slightest regard for the downside or anything but your own bottom line. That's why they did it. GREED. Now, there are similar ties between every major

industry, every Fortune 500 company, and nearly every public figure. IT MAKES THEM RICHER. It also drives up the cost for nearly every product and service on the market. So don't fall for their 'good will' 'humanitarian' BS. ITS A SHAM. NOTHING BUT A CALCULATED, TAX DEDUCTIBLE, MARKETING PLAN TO RAISE THE VALUE OF THEIR OWN IMAGE. If you fall for it, then you're a fool. If you see any real difference between the moral character of a celebrity, politician, attorney, lobbyist, or executive, then you're a fool. No offense fellow citizens. But we have been misled by nearly every living public figure. We still are. Even now, they claim to be 'hurting' right along with the rest of us. As if gas prices actually effect the lifestyle of a millionaire. ITS A LIE. IN 2007, THE RICHEST 1 PERCENT INCREASED THEIR AVERAGE BOTTOM LINE WEALTH AGAIN. On average, they are now worth well over \$4,000,000 each. Thats an all time high. As a group, they are now worth well over \$17,000,000,000,000. THATS WELL OVER SEVENTEEN TRILLION DOLLARS. Another all time high. Which by the way, is much more than the entire middle and lower classes combined. Also more than enough to pay off our national debt, fund the Iraq war for a decade, repair our infrastructure, and bail out the US housing market. Still think that our biggest problem is China? Think again. Its the one percent club. That means every big name celebrity, athlete, executive, entrepreneur, developer, banker, and lottery winner. Along with many attorneys, doctors, and politicians. If they are rich, then they are part of the problem. Their incredible wealth was not 'created', 'generated', grown in their back yard, or printed up on their command. It was transfered FROM US TO THEM. Directly and indirectly. Its become near impossible to spend a dollar without making some greedy pig even richer. Don't be fooled by the fall of the stock market, industry losses, lower profit margins, bank failures, or the occasional loss of a millionaire's fortune. Overall, they just keep getting richer. They do so with little or no regard for their own industries or the economy as a whole. They are obsessed primarily with a desire to accumulate more personal wealth. They absolutely will not stop. Still, they have the nerve to pretend as if they care about ordinary people. ITS A LIE. NOTHING BUT CALCULATED PR CRAP. WAKE UP PEOPLE. THEIR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO WIN THE GAME. The one percent club will always say or do whatever it takes to get as rich as possible. Without the slightest regard for anything or anyone but themselves. Reaganomics. Their idea. Loans from China. Their idea. NAFTA. Their idea. CAFTA. Their idea. Outsourcing. Their idea. Downsizing. Their idea. Sub-prime. Their idea. High energy prices. Their idea. Oil 'futures'. Their idea. The commercial lobbyist. Their idea. The multi-million dollar lawsuit. Their idea. The multi-million dollar endorsement deal. Their idea. \$400 cell phones. Their idea. \$200 cell phone bills. Their idea. \$200 basketball shoes. Their idea. \$30 late fees. Their idea. \$30 NSF fees. Their idea. \$20 DVDs. Their idea. \$50 event tickets. Their idea. \$30 books. Their idea. \$400 PC operating systems. Their idea. \$60 video games. Their idea. Obscene health care charges. Their idea. Subliminal advertising. Their idea. Brainwash plots on TV. Their idea. Vioxx, and Celebrex. Their idea. Excessive medical testing. Their idea. The MASSIVE campaign to turn every American into a brainwashed, credit card, pharmaceutical, medical testing, love-sick, celebrity junkie. Their idea. IT WAS ALL THEIR IDEA. IT MAKES THEM RICHER. All of the above drive up the cost of living, shrink the middle class, concentrate the world's wealth and resources, create a domino effect of socio-economic problems, and wreak havoc on society. All of which have been CREATED AND ENDORSED by celebrities, athletes, executives, investors, developers, entrepreneurs, attorneys, and politicians. IT MAKES THEM RICHER. So don't fall for any of their 'good will' 'humanitarian' BS. ITS A SHAM. NOTHING BUT TAX DEDUCTIBLE PR CRAP. In many cases, the 'charitable' contribution is almost entirely offset. Not to mention the opportunity to plug their name, image, product, and 'good will' all at once. Which is usually done just before or after the release of their latest commercial project. IT MAKES THEM RICHER. These greedy pigs even have the nerve to throw a fit and spin up a misleading defense with regard to 'federal tax revenue'. ITS A SHAM. THEY SCREWED UP THE EQUATION TO BEGIN WITH. If the middle and lower classes had a greater share of the economic pie, they could easily cover a greater share of the federal tax revenue. They are held down in many ways because of greed. Wages remain stagnant for the vast majority because the executives, investors, developers, celebrities, athletes, attorneys, politicians, and entrepreneurs, are paid millions. They over-sell, over-charge, under-pay, outsource, lobby, re-locate, cut jobs, and cut benefits to increase or preserve their own obscene personal bottom line. They do so even at the expense of their own industries. Even after you account for the fall of the market and lower industry profit margins, the richest 1 percent still keep getting richer on average. Simply because their wealth is drawn from the majority in many ways. Not necessarily at the same rate, but still in their favor. They continue to reap more than they spend down or 'give back'. They have done so for many years. As more United States wealth rises to the top, the middle and lower classes inevitably suffer. This reduces the potential tax revenue drawn from those brackets. At the same time, it wreaks havoc on middle and lower class communities and increases the need for financial aid. Not to mention the spike in crime because of it. There is a domino effect to consider. Caused primarily by a constant transfer of wealth from poor to rich. IT CAN'T WORK THIS WAY. But our leaders refuse to acknowledge this. Instead they come up with one trick after another to milk the system, feed the rich, and screw the majority. These decisions are heavily influenced by the 1 % club. Every year, billions of federal tax dollars are diverted behind

the scenes back to the rich and their respective industries. Loans from China have been necessary to compensate in part, for the red ink and the multi-trillion dollar transfer of wealth from poor to rich. At the same time, the feds have been pushing more financial burden onto the states who push them lower onto the cities. Again, the hardship is felt more by the majority and less by the 1 % club. The rich prefer to live in exclusive areas or upper class communities. They get the best of everything. Reliable city services, new schools, freshly paved roads, new lighting, sidewalks, drainage, upscale parks, ect. The middle and lower class communities get little or nothing without a raise in basic service charges or a local tax increase. Which, they usually can't afford. So the red ink flows followed by service cuts and lay-offs. All because of the OBSCENE distribution of bottom line wealth in this country. Anyway, when you account for all federal, state, local taxes, and fees, the middle class actually pay about the same rate as the rich. The devil is in the details. So when people forgive the rich for their incredible greed and then praise them for paying a greater share of the FEDERAL income taxes, its like nails on a chalk board. I can not accept any theory that our economy would suffer in any way with a more reasonable distribution of bottom line wealth. Afterall, it was more reasonable 30 years ago. Before Reaganomics came along. Before GREED became such an epidemic. Before we had an army of over-paid executives, investors, celebrities, athletes, attorneys, doctors, entrepreneurs, developers, lobbyists, and sold-out politicians to kiss their greedy asses. As a nation, we were in much better shape. Strong middle class, free and clear assets, home equity, savings, widespread prosperity, stable job market, lower deficit, ect. Our economy as a whole was much more stable and prosperous for the majority. WITHOUT LOANS FROM CHINA. Now, we have a more obscene distribution of bottom line wealth, and resources than ever before. We have a sold-out government, crumbling infrastructure, energy crisis, home foreclosure epidemic, credit crunch, weak job market, weak middle class, weak US dollar, 13 figure national debt, and 12 figure annual shortfall. The cost of living is higher than ever before. Most people can't even afford basic health care. ALL BECAUSE OF GREED. I really don't blame the upper class in general. At least not as a group and not without exception. No economy could ever function without some reasonable scale of income and wealth. But it can't be allowed to run wild like a mad dog. ALBERT EINSTEIN TRIED TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND. UNBRIDLED CAPITALISM ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT WORK. TOP HEAVY ECONOMIES CAN NOT BE SUSTAINED. THEY ALWAYS COLLAPSE. Bottom line: The richest 1 percent will soon tank the largest economy in the world. It will be catastrophic. Like nothing we've ever seen before. The American dream will be shattered. and thats just the beginning. Greed will eventually tank every major economy in the world. Causing millions more to struggle, fight, starve, suffer, and die. Oprah, Angelina, Brad, Bono, and Bill are not part of the solution. They are part of the problem. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE HUMANITARIAN. EXTREME WEALTH MAKES WORLD PROSPERITY ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE. WITHOUT WORLD PROSPERITY, THERE WILL NEVER BE WORLD PEACE OR ANYTHING EVEN CLOSE. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL. Of course, the rich will throw a fit and call me a madman. Of course, they will jump to small minded conclusions about 'jealousy', 'envy', or 'socialism'. Of course, their ignorant fans will do the same. You have to expect that. But I speak the truth. If you don't believe me, then copy this entry and run it by any professor of economics or socio-economics. Then tell a friend. Call the local radio station. Re-post this entry or put it in your own words. Be one of the first to predict the worst economic and cultural crisis of all time and explain its underlying cause. WE ARE IN BIG TROUBLE.

So what can we do about it? Well, not much. Unfortunately, we are stuck on a runaway train. The problem has gone unchecked for too many years. The US/global depression is comming thanks to the 1 % club. It would take a massive effort by the vast majority to prevent it. Along with a voluntary sacrifice by the rich. THATS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. But if you believe in miracles, then spend your money as wisely as possible. Especially in middle and lower class communities. Check the Fortune 500 list and limit your support of high profit/low labor industries (Hollywood, pro sports, energy, credit, pharmaceutical, cable, satellite, internet advertising, video, and music, cell phone, high fashion, jewelry, ect.). Cancel all but one credit card for emergencies only. Call the provider and demand a lower rate. Be persistent. You may get it. If you need a cell phone, then do your homework and find the best deal on a local pre-pay. If you want home internet access, then use the least expensive provider, and share accounts whenever possible. If you need to search, then use the less popular search engines. They usually produce the same results anyway. Don't click on any internet ad. If you need the product or service, then look up the phone number or address and contact that business directly. Don't pay to see any blockbuster movie. Instead, wait a few months and rent the DVD from a local store or buy it USED. Then loan it to a friend or family member. If you prefer the outing, then choose a film produced by the lesser known studeos with lower paid actors. If you want to see a big name game or event, then watch it in a local bar, club, or at home on network TV. Don't buy any high end official merchandise and don't support the high end sponsors. If its endorsed by a big name celebrity, then don't buy it. If you can afford a new car, then make an exception for GM, Ford, and Dodge. If they don't increase their market share soon, then a lot more people are going to get screwed out of their pensions and/or benefits. Of course, you must know by now to avoid those big trucks and SUVs unless

you truly need one for its utility. Don't be ashamed to buy a foreign car if you prefer it. Afterall, those with the most fuel efficient vehicles consume a lot less foreign oil. Which accounts for a pretty big chunk of our trade deficit. Anyway, the global economy is worth supporting to some extent. Its the obscene profit margins, trade deficits, and BS from OPEC that get us into trouble. Otherwise, the global economy would be a good thing for everyone. Just keep in mind that the big 3 are struggling and they do produce a few smaller reliable cars. Don't frequent any high end department store or any business in a newly developed center or upper class community. By doing so, you make developers richer and draw support away from industrial areas and away from the middle and lower class communities. Instead, support the local retailer and the less popular shopping centers. Especially in lower or middle class communities. If you can afford to buy a home, then do so. But go smaller and less expensive. Don't get yourself in too deep and don't buy into the newly developed condos or gated communities. Instead, find a modest home in a building or neighborhood at least 20 years old. If you live in one of the poorer states, then try to support its economy first and foremost. Be on the lookout for commercial brainwash plots on TV. They are written into nearly every scene of nearly every show. Most cater to network sponsors and parent companies. Especially commercial health care. In particular, high profit pharmaceuticals and excessive medical testing. **DON'T FALL FOR IT.** Get off the couch and take care of your body the way nature intended. There is no substitute. If you must see a doctor, then **DEMAND** that he/she give you more than 5 minutes of their undivided attention. Otherwise, dispute their unreasonable charges. Be prepared with written questions about your condition and get them answered one at a time. If they refuse, then dispute their unreasonable charges. If they prescribe excessive medical testing and find nothing new or significant, then dispute their unreasonable charges. If they prescribe a pharmaceutical, then ask for a generic. Better yet, consider a change in lifestyle or simple tolerance. If they still recommend the name brand pharmaceutical, then ask about any financial ties or conflict of interest. If they get offended, then dispute their unreasonable charges and consider a new doctor. If you must drug away your sniffles, aches, and pains, then at least do your homework. Be aware of the possible side-effects ahead of time. Don't be surprised to find yourself back a week or two later feeling worse. In which case, you should dispute their unreasonable charges. If you are diagnosed with another medical condition, then ask your doctor what he/she has done to rule out those possible side-effects. Otherwise, dispute their unreasonable charges. Don't let any greedy doctor treat you like a number, make you wait an hour, or rush you out of their office. Otherwise, dispute their unreasonable charges. Don't fall for this CRAP that doctors have no choice but to over-book their time or over-charge their patients because of high overhead. **ITS A LIE. YOUR DOCTOR IS MOST LIKELY A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.** So don't fall for their CRAP. Demand their undivided attention and respect. Afterall, they took an oath. Do all of the above regardless of your coverage. Don't force your employer to cover the obscene and often fraudulent charges of a corrupt health care industry. By doing so, you make the problem worse. Keep your guard up when watching ANY talk show. These people are not your friends. They are not your advocates. They are paid actors hired to get your attention and your money. Some of them are also executive producers (Oprah Winfrey, Ellen Degeneres, and Dr Phil.). Nearly every word, smile, and stupid joke is rehearsed ahead of time. Including those which take place during what appear to be 'technical oversights' (Today Show). Its all fake. Its all calculated. Nearly every segment is about marketing some over-priced product or service. They will use any excuse to plug a gadget, fashion item, travel destination, drug, movie, TV show, book, magazine, song, website, ect. Almost all of it over-priced. Almost all of it resulting in higher profits for their sponsors, partners, and parent companies. **DON'T FALL FOR IT.** Big business is fine on occasion depending on their ethics, profit margins, and profit sharing. Do your homework. If you want to support any legitimate charity, then do so directly. Never support any celebrity foundation. They spend most of their funding on PR campaigns, exotic travel, and high end accommodations for themselves. Thats right. Filthy rich public figures have been jet-setting the world in the name of 'humanity' for years. Riding in personal jets, staying in super-exclusive resorts, and living it up in exotic locations around the world the likes of which most people could never afford even if their lives depended on it. They bring along agents, advisors, publicists, hair, make-up, wardrobe, lighting, and photo crews who are also in it for themselves. They are paid six or seven figures for their part to schedule, manage, document, showcase, praise, and publicize the 'good will' of said public figures and their respective industries. Every possible expense is passed off as 'incidental' or 'necessary' and billed right back to some 'foundation' named after said public figure and/or respective industry. Every possible tax deduction is claimed. Which are incredibly vague and diverse thanks to our sold-out government. Deals are cut with major networks who agree to praise the 'good will' or 'humanitarian' effort of said public figures and plug their latest commercial project around the same time. Others from around the world pick up the story and save these industries billions in advertising every year. Resulting in higher profits and paychecks for the 1 % club. When its all said and done more wealth is transferred from poor to rich. NOT the other way around. So don't support any charity named after a living celebrity. Don't be fooled by any affiliation or inspired by any short term short sighted progress report. Instead, go to Charitywatch.org and look

up a top rated charity to support your favorite cause. Its all there. For example: 'Habitat For Humanity' is a top rated charity. They operate with a low overhead, volunteer workforce, and donated materials. They have built homes for the less fortunate in nearly every city nationwide. Including New Orleans. They do so as we speak. No similar effort can match their progress hour for hour or dollar for dollar. So there is no legitimate reason to support a slower, less efficient effort represented by a filthy rich Hollywood actor who flies in on a personal jet, takes most of the credit, and makes a deal with a major network for plugs just days before the premier of his latest film or DVD release. By doing so, you support not only the effort, but also the filthy rich actor. Concentrating more wealth and dumbing down our society further in the process. Instead, support 'Habitat For Humanity'. Its not perfect. It is affiliated with some big business. However, it is MUCH more efficient, effective, and less corrupt than 'Make It Right'. The difference is profound. In general, support the little guy as much as possible and the big guy as little as possible. Keep your own greed in check. Don't play the lottery and don't invest only for profit. If you do come into a fortune, then give away the bulk of it to others who have far less. Find the courage and do it. STAY OUT OF THE 1 % CLUB. Encourage others to do the same. Their standard is obscene, unjust, illogical, and immoral. There is no excuse for it. Do your part to reverse the transfer of wealth away from the rich and back to the middle and lower classes. Otherwise, there will be no economic recovery EVER. Unfortunately, there is no perfect answer. Jobs will be lost either way. Families will go cold and hungry either way. Innocent children will starve and die either way. But we need to support the largest group of workers with the most reasonable profit margins. We need to stand for a more reasonable distribution of income, bottom line wealth, and resources. We also need to support LEGITIMATE charities (Check that list at Charitywatch.org). This is our only chance to limit the severity or duration of the coming US/global depression. In the meantime, don't listen to Bernanke, Paulson, Bartiromo, Orman, Dobbs, Kramer, Pickens, Larson, O'Reiley, Limbaugh, Bruce, Inghram, or any other public figure with regard to the economy. They are all plenty smart but I swear to you that they will lie right through their rotten teeth. IT MAKES THEM RICHER. These people work for big business. The 'experts' they cite also work for big business. They are motivated primarily by their desire to accumulate more wealth. THEY WILL LIE RIGHT THROUGH THEIR ROTTEN TEETH. So don't fall for their tricks. Instead, look at the big picture. The economic problems we face have been mounting for well over 20 years. All of them caused or aggravated by a constant transfer of wealth from poor to rich. Soon, it will cause the first ever GLOBAL DEPRESSION. Its not brain surgery. For the mostpart, Its simple math. Like I said, you are welcome to copy this entry and run it by any professor of economics or socio-economics. Ask them specifically about the link between distribution of wealth and economic stability. If thats not good enough, then look up what Albert Einstein had to say about greed, excess, extreme wealth, and its horrible consequences. I speak the truth. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

Its already underway. A massive campaign to divert our attention. Trump, Buffet, O'Reiley, Dobbs, Winfrey, Pickens, Larson, Norris, Branson, Bohannon, Limbaugh, Coulter, Clinton, Bloomberg, and several other well known filthy rich public figures have been running their mouths about the economy. Finally admitting a hint of severity after almost 2 years of denial. They even have the nerve to FINALLY acknowledge the possibility of a US/global depression. Still, they refuse to acknowledge the single greatest underlying cause. GREED. Instead, they focus on policies, procedures, and circumstances that were born FROM the underlying cause. GREED. They ramble on about 'sub-prime', 'toxic debt', 'junk bonds', and 'risky investments'. As if somehow all of this could have been avoided if those transactions had never taken place to begin with. What a joke. Those factors don't represent the underlying cause of this global economic crisis. They represent the effect of a shrinking middle class and massive consumer debt. CAUSED BY GREED. A MASSIVE TRANSFER OF WEALTH FROM POOR TO RICH. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been such a market for sub-prime to begin with. The debt wouldn't have been 'toxic'. The bonds wouldn't have been 'junk'. The investments wouldn't have been so 'risky'. By focusing on such factors, they attempt to divert our attention, limit our hindsight, disregard the OBSCENE concentration of wealth and capital, that shrinking middle class, the high cost of living, and the particular form of evil responsible for almost all of it. GREED. Dancing their way around the big picture. DON'T FALL FOR IT. Remember: Our national debt was way up BEFORE sub-prime. Consumer debt was way up BEFORE sub-prime. The cost of living was up BEFORE sub-prime. Wall Street profits were obscene BEFORE sub-prime. The middle class were loosing free and clear assets BEFORE sub-prime. Our infrastructure was in bad shape BEFORE sub-prime. Loans from China were taken out BEFORE sub-prime. The dollar was loosing value BEFORE sub-prime. So don't let these cowardly, hypocritical, filthy rich public figures divert your attention or limit your range of thought. THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS NOT CAUSED BY A SINGLE POLICY, PROCEDURE, OR ADMINISTRATION. IT WAS CAUSED PRIMARILY BY A MASSIVE TRANSFER OF WEALTH FROM POOR TO RICH. THIS ALSO REPRESENTS A MASSIVE CONCENTRATION OF CAPITAL WORLDWIDE. OTHERWISE, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCH A MARKET FOR SUB-PRIME AND THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A GLOBAL CREDIT CRUNCH. MONEY DOES NOT GROW ON TREES AND IT DOES NOT JUST FLOAT AWAY. IT ONLY TRANSFERS FROM ONE PARTY TO ANOTHER. ALBERT EINSTEIN

TRIED TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

A word for those who respond with the usual 'I know more than you. I spell better than you. I talk like an economist. Look how smart, knowledgable, and articulate I am' crap. Let me say this in advance. I don't claim to be an expert in this field. But I did go on record with these predictions long before any public figure uttered the word 'recession'. I've done so 'on the air' and 'online'. Millions of you already know my voice. My first call was in September of '05'. I tried to explain that we will never have world peace without world prosperity and that we will never have world prosperity without a 'fair and reasonable pay-scale'. I also tried to explain the link between 'extreme wealth' and 'extreme poverty'. My call was immediately followed by attacks from so called 'patriots' who felt that my cause must have been to promote 'socialism' or 'bring down America'. Not warn her citizens. You may also remember me from chat rooms criticizing the 1 % club and Hollywood humanitarians in particular. If you search long enough, you will find my early postings online from '05' and '06'. At first, they were written specifically to fit within a few hundred characters. Including the first draft of this rant. It started with one short paragraph predicting a 'total collapse of the US economy'. Others included phrases like 'game of Monopoly', 'recession is inevitable', 'global recession', 'greed kills', and 'the worst economic and cultural crisis of all time'. Some of which were eventually included here. From day 1, I have tried to explain the link between extreme wealth, poverty, and economic instability. My internet account was eventually cancelled for posting 'spam' in response to articles about the economy. In December of '06', I predicted market instability by spring of the following year. I did so 'on the air'. In January of '07', I called another morning talk show and spoke with a guest host who was filling in for a well known public figure. Again, I specifically predicted growing market instability, the current US recession, and the subsequent US/global depression. Which by the way, will be the worst of all time by far. In February of '07', Allen Greenspan acknowledged a 'one in three' chance of a US recession. I immediately called another talk radio show and guaranteed AGAIN that it was imminent. I criticized Greenspan and tried to explain that it was not about 'odds' but instead a very simple equation with regard to distribution of income and wealth. I also gave credit to Albert Einstein who went on record with similar views in 1949. As far as I know, he was the first to do so. By late spring of '07', the market was rattled and the economic 'stimulus' in the works. Which turned out to be around \$160,000,000,000. THATS ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY BILLION DOLLARS. Well over 1 % of our GDP. Deemed appropriate at the time by our leaders. In fact, Bush went on record with a claim that it was based on a mathematical formula and proven strategy. They said it would work. I immediately predicted that it would have little or no effect. By summer of '07' the stock market was more unstable. The housing market in decline. Again, I predicted that it would get MUCH worse. In September of '07', I predicted that our government would have no choice but to acknowledge a US recession by October of '08'. I also assured the audience that our economy would "go down in a ball of flames" because of greed and that no recovery would EVER take place without a more reasonable distribution of wealth and resources. I have made these predictions 'on air' and 'online' literally hundreds of times. The first call was in September of '05'. Made to a well known public figure with a large audience. The first blog post a month or so later. Prior to that, I had never even seen one. In fact, my very first post to a blog was written specifically to warn my fellow citizens about the coming US/global depression. Which I was already convinced at the time would be SEVERE within a decade. That was in October of '05'. At the time, there were literally only a few of us worldwide posting any such prediction online. I'm talking maybe a dozen searchable links. This particular rant began with one short paragraph in '06'. Like the others, it was originally intended to fit within a few hundred characters. At the time, I was unaware of any blogs which allowed for longer entries to be posted anonymously. This paragraph was first written in early-mid '08'. Its been updated several times. There has also been a running debate on iVillage.com which began in October of '07' (don't click on their ads). In February or March of '08', I referred specifically to the bank failures of the Great Depression and predicted that it was about to happen again. At the time, I was one of only a few worldwide to go on record with any such prediction. This was still several weeks to months before Greenspan, Paulson, Bartiromo, Orman, Kramer, O'Reiley, Larson, Bohannon, Dobbs, Celeste or any other well known public figure had acknowledged even a hint of severity. It was also several weeks before Fanny May and Freddie Mac made the news. I also predicted in March that our markets would end the year much lower than they began. Which was still contrary to what we were being told by any public figure. I was allowed to post but when my predictions came true, the site operators went back all the way to October of '07' and deleted nearly every one of my previous entries (they missed a few.). Their motive was obvious. They wanted to 'erase' my credibility. iVillage.com is directly affiliated with NBC, GE, Universal Studeos, Countrywide, CityBank, Capital One, Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Ellen Degeneres, Dr Phil, and others who I persecute by name. All of which depend on the constant dumbing down of society. All of whom are partially responsible for the current economic crisis. None of which or whom have the GUTS to acknowledge the single greatest underlying cause. GREED. In fact, those who epitomize it (all of the above) want my big mouth SHUT. For 3 solid years, I have been ripping on the 1 % club for their incredible greed and hypocrisy.

From day 1, my call has been for a more reasonable distribution of income, wealth, and resources. My warning that without it, we would face the worst economic and cultural crisis of all time. Since then, I've gone on record against people like Greenspan, Bernanke, Paulson, Laffer, O'Reiley, Bartiromo, Orman, Kramer, Larson, and Dobbs. So far, my predictions have been accurate. The public figures DEAD WRONG. Afterall, not one of them acknowledged even a hint of severity in '05', '06', or '07'. When they FINALLY did this year, they all said something to the effect of "None of us saw this coming.". LIARS. There were a few of us typing our fingers to the bone trying to warn people. There were a few of us calling talk radio shows almost daily trying to warn people. I was one of them. Again, I don't claim to be an expert in this field. But I do understand simple equations, basic economics, and cultural trends. I also realize that mainstream views are DEAD WRONG and based on LIES told by filthy rich public figures who will say whatever it takes to serve their own interests. GREED. Afterall, what kind of incredible MORON could even glance at the numbers and somehow think the equation could work? What kind of incredible MORON could possibly hope to sustain an economy based on a constant transfer of wealth from poor to rich? What the hell did they expect to happen when the middle class finally ran low on money to spend on over-priced crap like everything that I mentioned in that first long paragraph? What the hell were they thinking of? I'll tell you what. RICHES. FILTHY STINKING RICHES. Thats what. Now, they are spinning themselves dizzy trying to divert our attention. Mark my words: They will never acknowledge the downside of their own incredible greed. They will all come up with one campaign or strategy after another to blame the other guy, the other administration, the other politician, the other party, the other policy, the other industry, the other country, ect. Whatever it takes to dumb down our society. They will NEVER have the GUTS to acknowledge the single greatest underlying cause for this global economic crisis. GREED. Its not their knowledge I question. Its their character. GREED. Like I said. This is not brain surgery. For the mostpart, its simple math. When you concentrate the world's wealth, you also concentrate its capital, and shrink the middle class along with the potential market for every major industry. Homes go unsold. Bills go unpaid. Jobs are lost. Banks fail. More products go unsold. More jobs are lost. More banks fail. and so on. and so on. and so on. It happened 80 years ago. It will happen again. This time on a catastrophic global scale. Throughout the cycle, the rich will panic and tighten their grip. Concentrating the world's wealth and resources even further, getting richer in the process, and ensuring the collapse of every major economy worldwide. Think it can't happen? Think again. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL. Another thing. I don't want credit for any of this. Otherwise, I would have given my full name a long time ago. I havn't. IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'm not selling a book and I'm not looking for any notoriety. At least not yet. I do have a plan to go public when my parents die. In fact, I have BIG plans for my inheritance. Every single penny of it. In the meantime, I don't want them to know about it. I also don't want them punished for my big mouth. Which is why I've gone out of my way to remain anonymous for 3 solid years. When I do go public, it won't be for profit and it won't be for popularity. It will be for a legitimate cause and NOTHING ELSE. In fact, I hope to be just one of many. A face in the crowd. In the meantime, I don't care who gets to say "I told you so." IT DOESN'T MATTER. As far as I'm concerned, you can put this entire rant in your own words and take credit for all of it. I don't care. Just spread the word. Otherwise, the greatest injustice of all time will go down in history unchecked. By the way. The bailout won't work. IT WON'T WORK. The plan fails to address the fundamental problem. The middle class don't need more credit. They need a reasonable share of the economic pie. They also need a lower cost of living and a chance to catch their breath. They need a break from all of the psychological marketing tricks and mass market BS. Most of all, they need to wake up, see the truth, and take a stand. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

10.01.08

To my surprise, two public figures have found the courage to acknowledge this problem to some degree. On 11.07.07 former presidential candidate Ron Paul mentioned the massive transfer of wealth from poor to rich. He also hinted at the possibility of economic collapse. He did so on 'Face the Nation'. He was blacklisted almost immediately for doing so. On 9.28.08 former secretary of labor Robert Reich referred to the obscene levels of income inequality as part of a "recipe for disaster". He mentioned the richest one percent in particular. He did so on 'Late Night With Conan O'Brien'. As far as I know, Albert Einstein was the first to explain the link between extreme wealth and economic instability. He did so in 1949. He explained how the first Great Depression was actually caused by a massive transfer of wealth from poor to rich. He predicted that it would happen again. He also predicted much greater levels of economic instability proportional to much greater levels of income and wealth inequality. He was right. Amazing. The prosperity of an entire world is about to be compromised. Almost entirely because of greed. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

Another word about the Great Depression. It really was a perfect storm. First, there was unprecedented economic growth. There was a massive building spree. There was a growing sense of optimism. There was a growing obsession for celebrities. The average American became a pathetic, brainwashed, consumer junkie, moron. All of this represented a MASSIVE transfer of

wealth from poor to rich. Executives, entrepreneurs, celebrities, and share holders. When the middle class finally ran low on money to spend UP, DOWN, and ACROSS, the rich did what they felt necessary to maintain their disgusting profit margins and ill-gotten obscene levels of wealth as long as possible. They cut jobs. The small business owners did what they felt necessary to survive. They cut jobs. The losses were felt primarily by the little guy. This created a domino effect. The middle class shrunk and the lower class expanded. With less wealth in active circulation, banks failed by the hundreds. More jobs were lost. Unemployment reached 25 % in 1933. The worst year of the Great Depression. The recovery involved a World War and higher taxes on the rich. With so many men in the service, so many women on the production line, and those higher taxes to help pay for it, the lions share of United States wealth was gradually transferred back to the middle class. This redistribution of wealth continued until the late seventies. At the time, the richest 1 % reaped about 10 % of all private income and held about 20 % of all United States wealth. Far less than previous levels. The middle class had home equity, free and clear assets, and money in the bank. The tide began to change. Jimmy Carter was blamed for a recession that was caused by a number of global circumstances including greed. Then a short sighted pig by the name of Arthur Laffer came along. He convinced Ronald Reagan to grant massive tax breaks to the rich and their respective industries. His half-baked theory was that by doing so, unprecedented levels of economic growth could be achieved. He was right. Unfortunately, he failed to see or acknowledge the big picture. That 'economic growth' and 'actual prosperity' are two different things. Jobs don't 'create' wealth. They only transfer it from one party to another. The devil is in the details. Reaganomics, gave the rich and their respective industries the incentive to 'expand' and 'create jobs'. But those products and services were over-priced and then sold or billed right back to the people. Often, without their knowledge, understanding, or consent. Certainly without a clue about how the economy REALLY works. All of this resulted in higher profits for those at the top and stagnant wages for everyone else. So with Reaganomics, the transfer of wealth from poor to rich was kicked back into high gear. Here we are 27 years later. Another perfect storm. The big one. Not only have we become a nation of consumer junkie credit card morons. But we have also become fat, stupid, and programmed to live by drug and doctor. We spend most of our spare time on the couch getting brainwashed by public figures. Even worse, those public figures have re-defined any logical standard we ever had for 'good will'. Mother Teresa is dead. America's favorite 'humanitarian' is now a filthy rich multi-media pig who reaped a billion dollar fortune from the middle class by making damn sure they stay on that couch long enough to watch her show and read her magazine. Transforming them into pathetic, naive, love-sick fools who turn around and buy any product or service endorsed by their idol. The same goes for Ellen Degeneres and her respective audience. In fact, every filthy rich well known public figure and every major industry have followed suit with a similar marketing strategy. Dumbing down our society and cashing in on bogus promises to make the world a better place. Amazing. EVERY big business, EVERY big celebrity, EVERY billionaire, and damn near every multi-millionaire on the planet have all taken up 'philanthropy' or 'good will'. Those with the most money, also have the most power, and influence by far. They own or influence every government, manage every major industry, and the lion's share of life sustaining resources. They literally rule our world. Still, every major problem of modern society gets worse by the day. The world's wealth is more concentrated than ever before. Her life sustaining resources are in high demand, more expensive than ever, and squandered by the rich on extravagant living. Meanwhile, families loose their homes, retirees loose their pensions, heroes loose their lives, crime is up, and red ink flows in nearly every community. The global economy is in a state of crisis. The prosperity of an entire world is about to be compromised. Still, those with the most power, money, influence, and 'good will'. promise to make it all better. If only we continue to support them and buy any product or service with their name on it. IT IS A SHAM. GOOD WILL HAS BECOME BIG BUSINESS.

The point about our government printing up more money was that it can't be done "on a whim" and that there are serious consequences for doing so (weak dollar, higher gas prices, inflation). I never said that it can't be or hasn't been done at all. Afterall, those loans from China weren't infused in the form of Chinese currency. They were infused in the form of our own. Not given to the middle or lower classes but instead to the banks in the form of credit. Its done nothing but perpetuate the problem. It never has been and never will be the answer. Sorry if I wasn't explicit enough the first time. The original draft of this particular rant was written over 2 years ago and intended to fit within 300 characters. I've been updating it weekly for the last year or so. Responding to a constant line of BS from the media and inserting those updates where they seem most appropriate. Anyway, I'm no English major. So if any of you want to re-organize or re-word this post, feel free to do so. Whatever it takes to make people understand.

11/05/08

A new president will be taking office soon. Backed up by a heavily democratic congress who have all campaigned on a promise to raise taxes on the rich. Unfortunately, this will be too little too late. Nowhere near enough to compensate for the incredible

corruption of both major parties. Nowhere near enough to pay for the bailout. Nowhere near enough to stop that runaway train. There will be no change for the better. Obama's financial advisers are pigs. Warren Buffet is a pig. Oprah Winfrey is a pig. Obama himself is a multi-millionaire politician married to a multi-millionaire attorney. He has already run the most expensive political campaign in history. Some of it squandered on a \$400 lobster feast for his wife. Financed for the mostpart by ordinary people who can't even afford a \$400 lobster feast. It happened on Obama's watch. Probably more than once. He even had the nerve to ask those ordinary people to help pay off the campaign debt of another filthy rich multi-millionaire politician PIG (Hilary Clinton). I will admit that Barack Obama seems to have more character than most of his colleagues. Certainly more than Clinton, Gore, McCain, Palin, Bush, Cheney, Romney, Schwarzenager, Palosi, Kerry, Guliani, Kennedy, Bloomberg, or Edwards. He was probably a very good down to earth man at one time. The same goes for Joe Biden. Not anymore. Afterall, John McCain was also a very good down to earth man at one time. A true American hero. NOT ANYMORE. Now, he is a filthy rich politician pig married to a filthy rich big business pig. SOLD OUT. Mark my words: Obama and Biden will do the same. Whatever moral character they may have left, will be lost or heavily compromised while in office. Like the others, their administration will be riddled with scandals of greed and corruption. Like the others, they will succumb to the greatest epidemic ever faced by modern man. By far, the most intoxicating element of modern society. Greed. Simply the desire to get as rich as possible. It has the potential to blacken any heart. Break the will of any human being. Influse any government. Corrupt any society. Those who succumb to it are lost forever. You can not get through to these people. You can not make them understand. No matter how bad it gets for the little guy. No matter how many families loose their homes. No matter how many people go cold and hungry. No matter how many innocent children starve and die. No matter how much blood is shed. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. The rich will ALWAYS blame the other guy. They will ALWAYS say or do whatever it takes to secure their own extreme personal wealth. When they 'give back', its only because they expect more in return. They will NEVER compromise their own bottom line. They will NEVER jeopardize their position in the 1 % club. They will NEVER stand for a more reasonable distribution of wealth and resources. They will NEVER acknowledge greed as a form of evil. They will NEVER acknowledge the potential it has to ruin EVERYTHING. They will NEVER admit the simple truth. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL. Ford, GM, and Dodge are begging the current admistration for some type of 'bridge loan' in order to avoid bankruptcy. The unions are begging for it. The people are divided. All because of a LIE. Again, we have been mislead. I'm not disputing their need. Its legit. I'm disputing the underlying cause. Competition my ass. China my ass. Japan my ass. Those factors are real but not fatal. They are also concequential. Not primary. Again, its GREED and CORRUPTION. Not only that of the auto executives and celebrities who demand millions to endorse the product but also within the health care industry. Thats right. Health care. The average doctor is a millionaire several times over. The average health care executive many times over. Both on average, are members of the 1 % club. AGAIN, ITS THEIR FAULT. If it weren't for the OBSCENE health care charges, brainwash plots, and artificially inflated market, then the financial burden placed on Ford, GM, and Dodge wouldn't be anywhere near as high. They could easily match the labor of Honda, Toyota, and Hyndai who's workers are younger on average and not so demanding when it comes to 'health care'. In this case, the little guy is partly to blame for their incredible ignorance. They smoke, drink, get fat, fall for the most OBVIOUS health care scams, live by drug and doctor, kiss greedy doctor ass, drive up the cost of their own health care, demand full coverage, and then strike if they don't get it. Retired US auto workers on average are now causing their former employers to incur several hundred thousand dollars PER RETIREE in health care expenses over the span of their retirement. Those in the current workforce are partly to blame as well. Not for greed. Their wages are reasonable. But their health care demands are well in excess. If they would simply open their eyes, acknowledge the incredible greed and corruption within the health care industry, get off the couch, get off the pharmaceuticals, and take care of their own bodies, then their own cost of living would be lower, their health would be better, the market for their product would be higher, and the financial burden placed on Ford, GM, and Dodge would be MUCH lower. I'm not discounting other factors like gas prices, competition, and the US product line. But greed and ignorance wreak havok like no other elements of our society. They cause or allow the cost of living to rise and the middle class to shrink along with the potential market for every major industry. In this case, they also raise the financial burden placed on US auto makers. Mark my words: One or two US automakers will go bankrupt. They will do so regardless of any 'bridge loan'. Other well known foreign auto makers will follow. The entire manufacturing industry will become a shell of its former self. Millions of retirees will be cut off entirely. ALL BECAUSE OF GREED, CORRUPTION, AND IGNORANCE. The ripple effect is profound. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

12/16/08

The feds have reduced their interest rate to an all time low. IT WON'T WORK. The same goes for any potential bailout for the US auto industry or any other. IT WON'T WORK. IT ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY WILL NOT WORK. I would bet my life on it

a hundred times over. Again, our own leaders refuse to acknowledge the single greatest drag on our economy. The single greatest underlying cause for the global economic crisis. GREED. They all refuse to acknowledge the downside. That idiot pig Arthur Laffer refuses to acknowledge it. Greenspan, Bernanke, and Paulson refuse to acknowledge it. Bush, Clinton, Kerry, Gore, Obama, and Kennedy refuse to acknowledge it. Lars Larson, Tammy Bruce, Lou Dobbs, Mike Gallagher, Suze Orman, Bill O'Reiley, Maria Bartiromo, Jim Kramer, Rush Limbaugh, and Jim Bohannon refuse to acknowledge it. Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Branson, and T-Boone Pickens refuse to acknowledge it. The same goes for all of their filthy-rich billionaire friends. All of the above are hypocrite pigs who don't have the guts to admit the simple truth. This is not brain surgery. For the mostpart, its simple math. WE ARE IN THIS MESS BECAUSE OF GREED. The world's richest one percent are now so incredibly rich that there simply isn't enough wealth circulating beneath them to sustain the global economy. Its on the brink of collapse. IT WILL COLLAPSE. We are now entering what will go down in history as the worst economic and cultural crisis of all time by far. You think its bad now? YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET. NOTHING. Trillions more in wealth/capital will be concentrated (Not lost. Concentrated.). Many more banks large and small will fail. Tens of millions will loose their savings (Transferred from poor to rich.). Even FDIC accounts will be forfeited (Yes they will. Yes they will. Yes they will.). Every major industry will become a shell of its former self. Unemployment will reach unprecedented levels. Millions of retirees will be cut off entirely. The lower class will become dominant. The financial aid system will fail miserably. The vast majority of those in need will have no access. Crime, poverty, and suicide will skyrocket. There will be riots and random acts of violence at banks, hospitals, and government buildings. The next generation will be left to fight in the crumbling streets over a shattered American dream. The rest of the world will have it even worse. So don't blame innocent people from other countries you idiots. Blame the rich. Blame the government. Blame the health care industry. Then blame yourselves for being so stupid for so many years. We have allowed a particular form of evil to grow out of control, intoxicate our society, consume our government, wreak havok on our own economy and culture, RUIN any chance we ever had at world prosperity, and jeopardize the very foundation of modern society. At the same time, we have allowed those who epitomize it to get away with calling themselves 'heroes' or 'humanitarians'. Putting a happy face on greed and dumbing down our society further in the process. THAT MEANS YOU. So wake up fellow citizens. Grow a spine. Don't fall for all of this 'good will' 'humanitarian' BS from the rich. IT IS A SHAM. NOTHING BUT TAX DEDUCTIBLE PR CRAP. Instead, look at the bottom line. IT'S F#@ & # % \$ OBSCENE. NOW GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULLS YOU IDIOTS. WE ARE IN THIS MESS BECAUSE OF GREED. AMERICA'S RICHEST ONE PERCENT NOW OWN ALMOST 1/2 OF ALL UNITED STATES WEALTH. THE WORLD'S RICHEST ONE PERCENT NOW OWN OVER 40 % OF ALL WORLD WEALTH. THATS WAY TOO MUCH. THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT HEROES. THEY ARE NOT HUMANITARIANS. THEY ARE DISGUSTING HYPOCRITE SLOBS. IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW MUCH THEY GIVE BACK. THEY STILL KEEP WAY TOO MUCH. IT CAN'T WORK THIS WAY. IT ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY CAN NOT WORK THIS WAY. IT NEVER HAS AND IT NEVER WILL. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

1 % CLUB PIGS: I've said it many times and I will say it many more. Greed is not the desire to break the law or intentionally oppress another human being. Greed is simply the desire to take more than your reasonable share of wealth or any limited resource. By doing so, you reduce the value of currency and raise the cost of living worldwide. You shrink the middle class and the potential market for every major industry. You expand the lower class and the need for financial aid. You cause a domino-effect of socio-economic problems. You literally cause innocent people to suffer and die. YOU MAKE WORLD PROSPERITY MATHEMATICALLY AND PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. It does not matter how much you 'give back'. It matters how much you KEEP. This is why I will go to my grave with nothing but bleeding and burning hatred for all of you. Thats right. I hate you and I'm not afraid to admit it. Afterall, its OK to hate a rapist. Its OK to hate a terrorist. I do. But I also hate wolves in sheep's clothing. THAT MEANS YOU. In fact, I consider the equation you stand for to be the greatest injustice of all time. It makes my f \$ #@ & \$ # blood boil. Jealousy my ass. Low self-esteem my ass. Self-pity my ass. Anyone who still thinks that after reading all of this is a F & #@ % \$ # MORON. You disgusting hypocrite pigs. I've noticed the little shots you've been taking at me, a few others, and the cause we stand for. The psychological stunts. Thats right Will Smith, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Today Show pigs, Regis and Kelly, Ellen DeGeneres, Dr Phil, Oprah Winfrey, Lars Larson, Bill O'Reiley, Lou Dobbs, Ann Coulter, Tammy Bruce, Laura Ingraham. I've noticed the crafty elusive statements you've been making about greed and subtle insults directed at those very few of us who stand against it. I also know that you're well aware of this campaign and that you're trying to shut it down. You've even gone out of your way to specifically attack 'anonymous' bloggers in general. As if we are somehow less credible without a registered account. I'm not the slightest bit intimidated by any of it. YOUR TRICKS WILL NEVER WORK ON ME. Mark my words: No matter what you say or do, I will spend the rest of my life persecuting all of you for the disgusting, obscene, unjust, illogical, and immoral equation you stand for. I won't break any laws. I won't harm one hair on your rotten

heads. Its not that I don't wish you were gone. I do. But I would never jeopardize such an important cause with a criminal act. NEVER. My only realistic goal is to make as many people as possible understand. Including future generations. I hope they look back on these words and spit on your graves. Afterall, they won't achieve any degree of world peace or prosperity until after they acknowledge GREED as a form of EVIL. Not until they acknowledge it with a number or some type of material standard. In the unlikely event they ever do, I hope they FINALLY come up with a system that works for the vast majority. One with a reasonable pay scale and caps on personal wealth. Otherwise, their system will fail over and over again. Just like the one you stand for. It can't work this way. It never has and it never will. NEVER. NO WAY IN HELL. So mark my words: I will not make excuses for a single one of you. I don't care how smart you think you are. I don't care how talented you think you are. I don't care how pretty you think you are. I don't care what you think you've done to earn up to fifty thousand times the pay of a firefighter, soldier, farmer, teacher, cop, truck driver, or garbageman. You're not worth it. I don't even care if your personal fortune fell out of the sky. If you're rich, I hate you. I don't care how much you 'give back'. I care how much you keep. Therefore, I will do everything within my power and within the law to expose your incredible greed and hypocrisy. If you want to break my will, then you're going to have to break my neck first. and if you pull a stunt like that, then a lot of people will know what happened to me and why. I've planned in detail for it. Most of you have no idea. Regardless, you pigs will not go down in history as 'heroes' or 'humanitarians'. Not if I can help it. We're in this mess primarily because of you. Its going to get MUCH worse primarily because of you. Thats what I believe and thats the message I intend to spread for the rest of my life. DEAL WITH IT.

1.21.09

A few more words about our new president and how certain public figures are using him to divert our attention, dumb down our society, shut my big mouth, and discredit the cause I stand for. I said it during the presidential campaign, I said it again in November, and I will say it again now. Our new president has more character than most of his colleagues. Much more. In fact, he puts Bush, Cheney, Rice, Clinton, Gore, Palosi, Reagan, Carter, Romney, Schwarzenegger, Bloomberg, and Kennedy to shame. He also puts nearly every living public figure to shame. Including those who claim to support him. By politician, public figure, and 1 % club standards, he is an angel. That being said, he is still a politician. Still a public figure. Still a member of the one percent club. Just a man. Like any other, he is a product not only of genetics but also of his environment. Like any other, he is intoxicated by certain elements of modern society. Including three of the worst. Fame, fortune, and power. All three have the potential to corrupt the mind, the heart, and the will of any human being. I can name only one who resisted the influence of all three. Mother Teresa died in 1998. The amazing standard she set died with her. Since then, an army of public figures and false heroes have sold out the very concept of 'good will'. Capitalizing on bogus promises to make the world a better place. The vast majority, on day one. The rest, along the way. Obama will do the same. Its just pathetic human nature. Put any man or woman on a stage or throne and something about them is different. Make any man or woman rich and something about them is different. I said it in November and I will say it again. Barack Obama was probably a very good down to earth man at one time. That was before the corrupt influence of fame, fortune, and power. Now, something about him is different. The same goes for Michelle Obama. They have already begun to sell out. Not only as necessary during the campaign because of our ignorant society and the fact that we won't elect ANYONE unless they look a certain way, dress a certain way, talk a certain way, kiss our babies, cut our taxes, tell us what we want to hear no matter how unrealistic, believe in God, follow a certain religion, support a certain industry, and show up on our favorite talk show with a fake smile, stupid jokes, and lame dance moves. That was bad enough. A sell-out necessary to get elected by a pathetic, ignorant, naive, short sighted, half-wit, couch potatoe, love-sick, celebrity junkie society. But also for profit before, during, and after the election. I already mentioned the \$400 lunchtime lobster feast. Paid for mostly by ordinary people who were willing to cut into their modest bottom lines in order to help get their hero elected. SHE ATE IT. That was bad enough. Another sign of the times. As expected, its already getting worse. I have no problem with the armor plated presidential limo, the extra security, the inauguration, or the speech. I have no problem with the concept of a public celebration. But I do have a problem with the \$35,000 ring, the \$150,000 dress, the exotic crystal, the exotic food, the corporate plugs, NBC, MTV, BET, Beyonce, LL Cool J, Miley Cyrus, and every other filthy rich big business/big money/big celebrity hypocrite pig who had the nerve to fly in on their personal jets, stand there lavished in gold, and jewels, and fur, and \$10,000 suits and pretend as if they and Obama share a desire to make the country and our world a better, more stable, more peaceful, and more 'just' place for all its people. Once again, promoting their own interests, dumbing down our society, and dancing their way around the single greatest underlying cause for the global economic crisis. GREED. The single greatest threat to modern society. GREED. Filthy, rotten, disgusting, self-centered, self-serving, black-hearted, hypocritical GREED. By doing so, they divert our attention AGAIN at a crucial time when we need

more than ever to finally acknowledge GREED as a form of EVIL. At a time when we need more than ever to understand how it burns through moral character, spreads like wildfire, jumps from one industry to another, one person to another, and wreaks havoc on society worldwide. IT ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF A DOUBT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL. All of this happened on Obama's watch. I understand that he didn't plan most of the details. But he did know about many. He stood by and watched that event sell out to the highest bidder. He also bought the ring. He didn't even have a word to say about the double standards or many ethical contradictions. Afterall, he got elected. It was no longer necessary to kiss so much big business, big money, big celebrity, 1 % club ass. SELL-OUT. Now, that army of filthy-rich, self-centered, self-serving, self-promoting, hypocrite pigs are using Obama's hopeful words against those very few of us who know better. They even have the nerve to belittle and villainize people like me simply because we don't float around with happy uplifting thoughts and a smile on our face. They pretend as if our message can't possibly be legitimate if its expressed with anger, contempt, hatred, or fear. As if a 'positive' attitude is any match for that domino-effect of socio-economic problems caused almost entirely by GREED. I understand that Obama could never go on record with views anything like mine. He has no choice but to be tolerant of other filthy-rich and powerful public figures. I can even forgive the affiliation to some extent. I also believe that he truly does want some degree of government reform, ethics, accountability, peace, prosperity, stability, opportunity, and economic justice for all people. Like I said, by politician standards he is an angel. Which is probably the nicest thing I will ever say or even think about a rich and powerful public figure. I find it near impossible to hate the man. He is literally the only rich and powerful public figure on this planet that I don't hate. I also understand why he gave the uplifting speech. I really don't blame him for a single word of it. But I will not pretend as if a smile or 'positive' attitude is any match for that particular form of evil consuming our world. I will not choose 'hope' over 'fear' just because it feels nice. Of course, I want things to get better. Of course, I will try in vain to help make things better. Of course, I want something legitimate to celebrate. Something that we could all be a part of. Of course, I desperately want Obama to succeed. Of course, I desperately want all of my predictions to be proven wrong. I just don't see it happening. With or without Obama, we are still stuck on that runaway train. Its not going to be any better. Its not going to be alright. Not for the vast majority. Its going to get much worse and stay that way for a very long time. I fully expect to die knowing that I devoted myself to a cause which was lost from day one. Greed will always triumph over good will. The people will never take any real stand against it. The vast majority are pathetic, ignorant, naive, short sighted, brainwashed, pharmaceutical, medical-testing, couch potatoe, credit card, love-sick, celebrity junkie, powderpuffs. Perfect little victims. I hate to say that about my fellow citizens but its the truth. Afterall, they didn't see this coming. I tried to warn them and they still didn't see it. Others tried to warn them and they didn't see it. Albert Einstein tried to warn them SIXTY FIVE YEARS AGO. They didn't listen. They didn't see it. They did NOTHING to stop this or even slow it down. Even now, when the problem is so much more obvious. Even now, when the futures of their children are at stake. Still, they do NOTHING. Sometimes, I wonder if they are even worth fighting for. What the hell is the point? They will never listen. They will never wake up. They will never do simple math. They will never take a stand. There will never be economic justice. There will never be a more reasonable distribution of wealth and resources. Therefore, there will never be any degree of world peace or prosperity. Its only going to get worse. A LOT WORSE. GREED KILLS. IT WILL BE OUR DOWNFALL.

Gallup: Obama approval rate is rising (2009-02-28 13:04)

President Barack Obama's approval rating jumped up to 67 % from 59 % on Tuesday and 63 % last week according to the latest Gallup poll taken from Tuesday to Thursday.

Gallup suggests that the president's address to Congress was responsible for the rise noting a sharp comeback among Republicans from 27 % approval to 42 %.

✕

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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3.3 March

Obama raises hopes for climate change agreement (2009-03-01 12:40)


Signals from the Obama administration are raising hopes for a climate change pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol. President Barack Obama is reversing the course of the Bush administration and is eager to tackle the issue.

"The No. 1 thing will be for everyone to see that the U.S. is on an urgent and transformational path to a low carbon economy — that would have a galvanizing effect," John Ashton, the British foreign secretary's special representative for climate change, told the New York Times.

"In Kyoto we made a lot of promises to each other, but we hadn't done the domestic politics, and that is why Kyoto — though a valuable step forward — has ultimately been so fragile."

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama says the recovery plan will, in part, focus on clean renewable energy and fund research into breakthroughs in energy and save our planet from climate change. (Feb. 24)

 stv.tv

Obama's Backing Raises Hopes for Climate Pact

New York Times - 17 hours ago

But within weeks of taking office, President Obama has radically shifted the global equation, placing the United States at the forefront of the ...

Obama's signals on climate raising hopes for new treaty Austin American-Statesman

Obama raises hopes on climate treaty MarketWatch (press release)

India Impressed By Obama's Stand on Climate Change But Demands ... Red, Green, and Blue

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



What's Hot (2009-03-02 04:11:00)

Show your support for President Barack Obama by purchasing merchandise from Obama Shops. Obama T Shirts, buttons, novelties, cards, bumper stickers, apparel and more!

<http://www.cafepress.com/obamashops>

U.S. offers \$900 million to help Gaza (2009-03-02 09:23)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced Monday that the United States has offered more than \$900 million in aid to the Palestinian people, although it does not want that money to reach Hamas.

"Only by acting now can we turn this crisis into an opportunity that moves us closer to our shared goals," Clinton said at a Gaza donors conference at the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"By providing humanitarian assistance to Gaza, we also aim to foster conditions in which a Palestinian state can be fully realized."

The Palestinian Authority though said that reconstruction in Gaza would not be possible with the current Israeli embargo in place, and called on Israel to allow goods to flow into the area.

French leader Nicolas Sarkozy also called for a peace conference this summer in Europe with the goal of achieving peace by the end of 2009.

 ABC News

US offers \$900 million to Palestinians

CNN International - 38 minutes ago

(CNN) – The United States has offered more than \$900 million to help the Palestinian people, particularly those in Gaza, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced Monday.

Video: Gaza donors meet in Egypt france24english

[EMBED]

Donors pledge \$3bn to rebuild Gaza Aljazeera.net

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama, Biden visit DOT as 'shovels hit the ground' (2009-03-03 13:46)

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden visited the DOT as infrastructure work begins as part of the new economic stimulus package.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will enable our nation to rebuild, retool and revitalize the vast network of roads, tunnels, bridges, rail systems, airports and waterways that we have long depended on to keep the economy moving and growing," transportation secretary Ray LaHood said.

"Our transportation infrastructure is critically important to our nation's economic health. We need to protect, preserve and invest in it to make sure it can meet the demands we all place on it now and in the future."

The stimulus bill is designed primarily to create new jobs in the face of a massive downturn in the employment picture. Infrastructure projects have been a proven job creator in the past, and Obama had promised to renew American's aging roads, bridges and other public works even before the financial crisis struck last year.

[EMBED]

 AFP

Obama, Biden Visit DOT

Washington Post - 4 hours ago

Welcome, President Obama, Vice President Biden. Thank you for coming to the Department of Transportation to mark this historic occasion.

Obama: 'We are seeing shovels hit the ground' USA Today

Emblems to Stamp Projects Funded by the Stimulus Package ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama restores process in protecting endangered species (2009-03-03 16:24)

President Barack Obama today signed a presidential memorandum to restore the scientific process in endangered species matters.

A regulation by George W. Bush just before leaving office threatened the established practice treating endangered species.

Obama said that there was a "false choice" between growing the economy and preserving the environment. "The work of scientists and experts in my administration, including here at the Interior Department, will be respected," Obama said. "With smart, sustainable policies, we can grow our economy today and preserve the environment."



Voice of America

Obama Reverses Bush Rule on Protection of Endangered Species

Washington Post - 4 hours ago

Barack Obama has signed a presidential memorandum to restore the scientific process in endangered species decisions. Obama says the process was undermined ...

Video: Obama Puts Bush Species Ruling on Hold AssociatedPress [EMBED]

'We can grow our economy and preserve the environment,' Obama says ... New York Times

Full text of President Obama's memo on endangered species Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama approval remains high (2009-03-04 08:57)

A new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll continues to affirm that despite the sinking economy, President Barack Obama retains high popularity marks.

A record 70 % are very dissatisfied with the economy, and half of all adults are unhappy with their own financial situation.

Yet apparently, people still believe Obama is doing his best in tackling the crisis.

Likely they are comparing Obama's headlong approach to the inaction of the previous administration in its waning days. If Obama continues to be the action guy that he has been so far, I would not be surprised if he continues to get high ratings. And most people realize that the depth and breadth of the economic situation is such that no one would be able to solve it quickly.



Washington Post

Poll: Obama 'more popular than ever'

USA Today - 4 hours ago

Among the major news that's expected to come out today: More details about the Obama administration's \$75 billion housing rescue plan.

Obama budget director urges patience with recovery The Associated Press

Obama Officials Defend Budget Washington Post

 BBC News

Obama at 60 % Approval in Poll; Rightbloggers Declare Fraud

Village Voice - 4 hours ago

Of course he was not happy with the methodology of the November 4 Obama poll, either. "The 'poll shows gap between popularity of president and his policies ...

Obama Gets Strong Support in Poll FOXNews

Most in state give Obama high ratings San Francisco Chronicle

Poll: Obama's rating at all-time high MSNBC

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



White House releases money for distressed homeowners (2009-03-04 16:30)

The Obama administration Wednesday began providing relief to distressed homeowners as part of its \$275 billion housing stimulus plan .

Approximately is allotted to the \$75 billion mortgage modification plan, which requires borrowers to show hardship before receiving funds.

Homeowners with mortgages on about 8.3 million properties were in distress at the end of 2008 and more trouble is on the way, First American CoreLogic said.

The housing market continues to flounder as prices sag and buyers in most areas are scarce. There are still many homeowners with adjustable rate mortgages that will reset sometime in the future resulting in significantly higher mortgage payments.

 ABC News

US launches \$75 bln mortgage plan to aid homeowners

Reuters - 1 hour ago

By David Lawder and Lynn Adler WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, March 4 (Reuters) - The Obama administration on Wednesday launched a \$75 billion foreclosure relief plan, as new data showed one in five US homeowners with mortgages owe more than their house is worth ...

Answers to questions about Obama's foreclosure relief plan Kansas City Star

Will Obama's housing plan help me? Salt Lake Tribune

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Obama holding health care summit (2009-03-05 09:06)

President Barack Obama is hosting a health care summit at the White House to discuss his new plan. Obama has not yet released specific details of the plan as he apparently wants to review opinions in Congress first on the best way to move forward. Media is reporting that the president will push very hard for a universal health care plan by the end of this year – an ambitious target date considering past failures in this area.

"The cost of health care now causes a bankruptcy in America every 30 seconds. By the end of the year, it could cause 1.5 million Americans to lose their homes," Obama said according to a released excerpt of his opening remarks at the summit.

"If we want to create jobs and rebuild our economy, then we must address the crushing cost of health care this year, in this administration. Making investments in reform now, investments that will dramatically lower costs, won't add to our budget deficits in the long term – rather, it is one of the best ways to reduce them," another excerpt said.

 Voice of America

Obama summit eyes cure for US health care woes

CNN - 55 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – The Obama administration is hosting a summit Thursday designed to cure a frustrated patient battling a persistent ailment: the United States and its rising health care costs.

Video: Obama Health Care Summit CBS [EMBED]

Obama begins health reform drive with W.House forum Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Les Reves de Lucie (2009-03-08 09:58:00)

Mister The President of The United States,

Health for everybody is a very important point in a country where most of the people can't have any access to a good health cover. So I want to congratulate you for instauring social cover for every americans. Mister Obama, you represent a great and good change for America.

Houses passes mortgage relief plan (2009-03-05 17:43)

The House of Representatives approved a new bill that would allow bankruptcy judges to reduce homeowners' mortgage debt as a last resort to avoid foreclosure. The bill passed 234-191 on Thursday. Bankers fought against the so-called "cramdown" bill despite amendments that restrict it to existing primary residence mortgages, and not future loans.

The Senate is expected to consider the House bill soon. Michael Calhoun, president of the Center for Responsible Lending, praised the House version of the bill.

"Hundreds of thousands of families have lost their homes unnecessarily and tens of millions of neighboring families have watched the value of their homes plummet. We urge the Senate to act quickly to approve this bill and put it on President Obama's desk for his signature," Calhoun said.

X The Associated Press

House approves mortgage bankruptcy overhaul

Reuters - 1 hour ago

By Kevin Drawbaugh WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Bankruptcy judges could cut the mortgage debt of homeowners in bankruptcy court as a last resort to avert foreclosure, under a bill approved by a 234-191 vote on Thursday in the US House of Representatives.

House Passes Mortgage Bankruptcy Bill FOXNews

House Roll Call: How they voted on a bankruptcy home loan bill Los Angeles Times

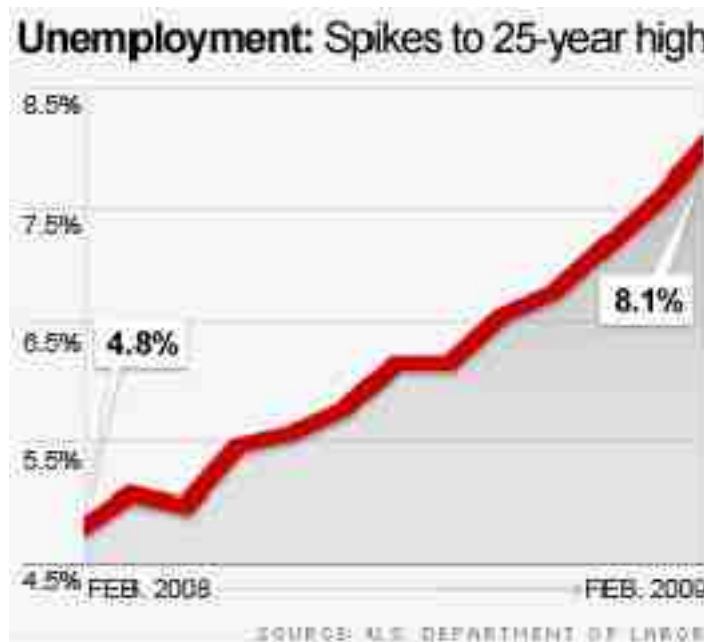
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Jobless rate continues climb (2009-03-06 09:28)

More bad news on the depth of the economic downturn.

Unemployment has reached a 25-year high. Employers cut 651,000 jobs in February bringing the six month total to 3.3 million job losses.



And the word is out that the nation's major banks are, for all intents and purposes, insolvent and will not pass the government's "stress test."

The similarities between the current situation and that in the early 1930s is uncanny, and it may not be long before the "D" word will come to replace "recession" in describing the current crisis.

X ABC News

Payrolls sink 651000, jobless rate soars to 8.1 %

MarketWatch - 31 minutes ago

By Greg Robb, MarketWatch WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) – The weakness in US labor markets has gathered extraordinary momentum, wiping away millions of jobs over the past four months alone, the Labor Department reported Friday.

US loses another 651000 jobs Bizjournals.com

US ECON: February Payrolls Fall 651000; Unemployment At 8.1 % Forbes

 Boston Globe

Happening now: Obama discusses economy again

USA Today - 36 minutes ago

President Obama is on stage in Columbus, speaking to police academy graduates. He's using the occasion to talk again about the ailing economy and to point to the police recruits' jobs that have been saved by funding from the \$787 billion stimulus ...

Obama to speak to Ohio police recruits The Associated Press

Obama touts effects of economic stimulus package in Ohio guardian.co.uk

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Howard Dean considred for surgeon general (2009-03-06 20:24)

CNN is reporting that Dr. Howard Dean is under consideration to replace Dr. Sanjay Gupta as President Barack Obama's nominee for surgeon general.

Gupta withdrew Thursday saying he wants to focus more on his family and career as a surgeon.

Dean, a former presidential candidate, ended a four-year term as head of the Democratic Party this year. His accomplishments include helping the Democrats recapture both Congress and the White House.

The surgeon general head U.S. Public Health Service and is the top federal government spokesperson on matters of public health.



E! Online

Dean under consideration for surgeon general: report

Reuters - 3 hours ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Howard Dean, a practicing physician before entering politics, was under consideration by the Obama administration for the post of US surgeon general, CNN reported Friday.

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta withdraws as surgeon general candidate Chicago Tribune

Transcript: Gupta talks to King about surgeon general decision CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama heading for Turkey (2009-03-07 13:04)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced today that President Barack Obama will visit Turkey next month. Clinton made the announcement at an Ankara press conference in Ankara, where she is on an official visit. The White House said that Obama has not decided on whether to give the speech from a Muslim capital that he promised in his first 100 days.

In addition to Turkey, other possible sites for the speech include Morocco, Egypt and Indonesia. "Planning for the Turkey visit is just beginning. It will be an important opportunity to visit a NATO ally and discuss shared challenges," a senior administration official said. "It will also provide an opportunity to continue the president's dialogue with the Muslim world, a dialogue he started immediately and intends to maintain throughout his presidency."

During his campaign, Obama pledged to mend relations with the Muslim world that he said were damaged during the Bush administration. The president's first television interview after taking office was with the Arab television network Al-Arabiya.

 Boston Globe

Obama to Visit Turkey Next Month

Washington Post - 3 hours ago

By Anne E. Kornblut Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced today that President Obama will visit Turkey next month – but administration ...

Obama to visit Turkey, key on Iraq, Afghanistan The Associated Press

President Obama to Visit Turkey Within Weeks Voice of America

Obama Plans to Visit NATO Ally Turkey, Clinton Says Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Karzai praises Obama on engaging Taliban (2009-03-07 21:23)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai on Sunday hailed President Barack Obama's call for engaging the Taliban.

"It is very good news that the American president, his Excellency Obama, has backed talks with those Taliban that he termed as moderate," Karzai said at an International Women's Day event in Kabul.

"This is the Afghan government's long stand. We wanted this and we support and stand with them to bring peace and stability to this land. Only those who have left their homes and are fighting their country because they are forced to, or are scared (of being arrested) or for other reasons, they are welcome (to join talks)."

Many analysts feel that a purely military solution in Afghanistan is no longer tenable as the Taliban has been growing in strength across most of the country.

[EMBED]

Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, has requested that national elections, which were due to take place in August, be brought forward to April so as to be in line with the constitution. Inside Story asks: Is Karzai respecting the constitutional deadline, as his supporters claim, or is he attempting to gain an unfair advantage, as his opponents suggest? (Al-Jazeera)

 Washington Post

Karzai hails US call for engaging Taliban

PRESS TV - 43 minutes ago

Afghanistan's president has welcomed the new US administration's readiness to engage 'moderate elements' of the Taliban in peace talks.

Karzai welcomes Obama call to reach out to Taliban The Associated Press

Afghan leader Karzai backs Obama's call on Taliban Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama lifting stem cell research ban (2009-03-08 20:40)

President Barack Obama is reversing George W. Bush's ban on stem cell research but leaving it to Congress to decide on whether the legislative ban on federal financing for human embryo experiments should also be overturned. The ban, known as the Dickey-Wicker amendment, was legislated in 1996, and has been renewed yearly since then. Religious groups have opposed the research likening it to abortion since it uses discarded human embryos. Supporters say that the ban has hindered scientific research that could help treat many diseases and injuries.

 CTV.ca

Obama Is Leaving Some Stem Cell Issues to Congress

New York Times - 11 hours ago

The latest on President Obama, the new administration and other news from Washington and around the nation. Join the discussion. The officials, who provided ...

Video: Religious groups criticise US stem cell reversal - 09 Mar 09 Al Jazeera [EMBED]

Obama Aims to Shield Science From Politics Memo to Accompany Stem ... Washington Post

Obama Ending Bush's Stem Cell Research Ban CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Report: Obama to tap Van Jones as Green Jobs Czar (2009-03-09 14:28)

A number of media reports suggest that Van Jones has been tapped as President Obama's Green Jobs Czar.

Van Jones is a great pick for this job. He is the founding president of Green For All and a senior fellow with the Center for American Progress. He is also the author of The Green Collar Economy. He has been a leading advocate for the creation of new "green" jobs.

In his book, Jones says: "If you're going to green our cities, you should green first those communities where the buildings are the leakiest, where the poor people live in drafty old buildings. You should put solar panels up there

first. You should put the community gardens where people can least afford food.”

 YES! Magazine

Van Jones: Beyond the Politics of Confrontation

YES! Magazine - 47 minutes ago

Then Barack Obama—seeing the potential of this pro-democracy movement, this concern for green energy, the incredible work Al Gore had done, ...

Van Jones tapped as Green Czar Mother Nature Network

Czar Bazaar: Van Jones to Run Green Jobs? Wall Street Journal Blogs

Jackson native to be a member of Obama’s administration Jackson Sun

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama calls for action on education system, teachers (2009-03-10 12:10)

During the campaign, President Barack Obama promised to reform the education system .

Speaking at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, Obama talked about moving beyond partisan bickering to overhaul the system.

”For decades, Washington has been trapped in the same stale debates that have paralyzed progress and perpetuated our educational decline. Too many supporters of my party have resisted the idea of rewarding excellence in teaching with extra pay, even though it can make a difference in the classroom. Too many in the Republican Party have opposed new investments in early education, despite compelling evidence of its importance.”

Obama said that Americans need an effective education system to compete in the world economy. He stressed the responsibility of teachers in improving education standards.

”Let me be clear: If a teacher is given a chance but still does not improve, there is no excuse for that person to continue teaching,” Obama said. ”I reject a system that rewards failure and protects a person from its consequences.”

 FOXNews

Obama Pitches Strategy to Improve Teaching Corps, Overhaul US ...

Washington Post - 3 hours ago

President Obama says the US must improve education to stay competitive in the world economy. Obama spoke about education Tuesday at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Video: Obama: US Must Improve Schools to Compete The Associated Press [EMBED]

Obama wants to overhaul education system from 'cradle to career' CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-12-12 18:27:22)
yoo.. attractive post

Congress approves \$410 billion spending bill (2009-03-10 17:21)

The U.S. Congress on Tuesday sent \$410 billion bill to President Barack Obama against Republican objections over the price tag for this quarter's government funding.

"It takes care of these government agencies that have been, over the Bush years, so underfunded," said Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Many Republicans resisted the bill because it raised spending by 8 percent above fiscal 2008 levels.

The bill also begins lifting restrictions on travel and trade to Cuba – something promised by Obama during the campaign season.

 FOXNews

Congress sends last 2009 spending bill to Obama

Reuters - 40 minutes ago

By Jeremy Pelofsky WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Democratic-controlled US Congress on Tuesday approved a \$410 billion bill to fund most of the government through September 30, sending it to President Barack Obama despite Republican objections to the price ...

Senate Passes Huge Spending Bill for Obama FOXNews

Congress Gives Final Approval to \$410 Billion Spending Package Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama has goals for Group of 20 summit (2009-03-11 10:29)

President Barack Obama is expected to provide leadership at the Group of 20 summit in London on April 2.

The global economy is in the doldrums and many analysts fear that nations working independently of each other will not be able to solve what is a crisis of the international economy.

Obama said he had two main goals for the summit – to assure "concerted action around the globe to jump-start the economy," and to "make sure we are moving forward on a regulatory reform agenda" to prevent future financial meltdowns.

European nations, however, have rejected Obama's calls to stimulate their economies with increased spending.

American consumers are not likely, and probably are unable to bail out the world economy. It's not only a matter of them being unable to get the financing for really high-charged spending; they simply do not have the kind of spending power even under ideal conditions to meet the current demand. A lot of the money needed for recovery is

actually tied up in the derivatives market.

 BBC News

Q & A: Obama hopes to show leadership at G20

Reuters - 26 minutes ago

(Reuters) - President Barack Obama will dive into international economics next month when he attends a summit in London of the Group of 20 major developed and emerging economies.

Obama urges allies to act together to jump-start global economy Los Angeles Times

Obama Says 'Concerted' G-20 Action Needed on Economy Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton honor women's right advocates (2009-03-11 20:39)

First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton honored women from around the world to celebrate International Women's Day.

The two presented Women of Courage Awards at the State Department to celebrate women who have fought for women's rights in their countries. Honorees came from Afghanistan, Guatemala, Iraq, Malaysia, Niger, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Obama said the recipients taught the world three lessons: "One, as women we must stand up for ourselves. The second, as women we must stand up for each other. And finally as women we must stand up for justice for all."

Award recipient Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan praised Clinton for being a role model for women: "Your immortal words that human rights are women's rights and women's rights resonate with all of us here."

 ABC News

Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton team up to honor women

CNN International - 41 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) - The power of women hit the State Department on Wednesday when first lady Michelle Obama joined Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to celebrate champions of women's rights around the world.

At the State Department, Sisterhood Washington Post

Secretary Clinton, First Lady Honor International Women's Rights ... ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-03-11 22:31:00)

I am happy the women are out there making a statement but I am concerned with the economy in WY. I cant find a blog that pertains to the oilfield business in Wyoming so I am posting this message here in hopes that the democrats will take notice. Our oilfield business has crashed. Everyone is out of work!!!! I realized back east has taken a hit but my concern is within my


own state. 6 months ago, right before the election we were making money. The minimum wage to work on a drilling rig is 25.00/hr now we have nothing. Families are going broke and we need to start drilling again. We drill for natural gas out here. The big companies are enviromentally safe and we protect our environment for future generations so why are we shutting down??? We need to get back to the way things were and DRILL!! My goodness we need to drill for natural gas and oil on our own lands!!! President obama, starting DRILLING!! we need help out here in Wyoming. Please help us!!

Obama's climate plan might face Democratic opposition (2009-03-12 09:28)

President Barack Obama 's climate change plan might run into some trouble according to some Senate Democratic budget leaders.

Republicans are the only ones opposing the plan as some conservative Democrats are also worried that industrial states will be hard hit by Obama's cap-and-trade proposal.

The administration is considering horse-trading with the conservatives or so-called "Blue Dog Democrats" during budget negotiations in order to get the climate plan through as part of an overall deal.

 Voice of America

Some Dems doubt Obama climate plan will pass

Houston Chronicle - 13 hours ago

By JENNIFER A. DLOUHY WASHINGTON — Key Senate Democrats on Wednesday cast doubt on whether Congress would approve President Barack Obama's plan to control ...

Cap and Horse Trade: Obama's Uphill Battle for Climate Bill Wall Street Journal Blogs

Senate budget leaders warn against using spending bill to move ... New York Times

Budget Process Likely to Be Bitter and Sweet CQPolitics.com

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama reaches out to military families at Ft. Bragg (2009-03-12 16:54)

First lady Michelle Obama visited military families at the Fort Bragg army base in North Carolina today.

In her first major advocacy mission, Mrs. Obama called on Americans to reach out to military families.

"Our soldiers and their families have done their duty — and they do it without complaint," Mrs. Obama said. "And we as a grateful nation must do ours — do everything in our power to honor them by supporting them."

Mrs. Obama has said she wants to focus on military families as first lady.

Mrs. Obama also gave her first network television interview since the inauguration at Fort Bragg with ABC's "Good Morning America."

 ABC News

Michelle Obama Shines Her Spotlight on Military Families

Washington Post - 3 hours ago

And on her first solo out-of-town trip as first lady, Michelle Obama went to Fort Bragg Military base in North Carolina, where she was greeted by cheers ...

Michelle Obama tours, mingles at NC Army base The Associated Press

Michelle Obama focuses on military families Boston Globe

Michelle Obama Visits With Soldiers And Their Families CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama to tackle earmarks (2009-03-13 08:04)

President Barack Obama on Wednesday morning called on Congress to pass reforms that would restrict earmarks and increase transparency of the process.

Obama does not intend to eliminate earmarks, and he did not make campaign promises to fight the practice. Indeed, Obama himself was the recipient of a number of earmarks during his time as Illinois senator. However, Sen. John McCain, his Republican opponent during the election, made a big deal of earmarks, which he opposes.

"Done right, earmarks give legislators the opportunity to direct federal money to worthy projects that benefit people in their district, and that's why I have opposed their outright elimination," Obama said.

The current spending bill is loaded with earmarks, which Obama has indicated were excessive.

"I am signing an imperfect omnibus bill because it is necessary for the ongoing functions of government," Obama said. "But I also view this as a departure point for more far-reaching change."



Voice of America

Obama Announces Plan for Earmark Reform

FOXBusiness - 2 hours ago

President Obama announced his plan to reform earmarks, the pet projects inserted into bills by legislators in an effort to get bills passed and satisfy ...

He'll Quit Tomorrow Washington Post

Republicans won't blindly follow Obama Las Vegas Sun

Obama signs earmark-laden spending bill San Francisco Chronicle

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Obama drops "enemy combatants" term (2009-03-14 08:31)

The Obama administration said Friday that Guantanamo detainees will no longer be listed as "enemy combatants." The president is also dropping the Bush administration claim that the commander in chief has the right to detain suspects without trial.

However, the White House is retaining the practice of holding Guantanamo's detainees indefinitely.

Lawyers fighting against the government's detention policies, though, said that things remain practically the same despite the changes.

Reactions to the announcement differed sharply. Military Families United saw the change as a "drastic dismantling of the war on terror." The American Civil Liberties Union called it "deeply troubling" because it retained an "overly broad interpretation" of who can be held as a war prisoner. (LA Times)

 Voice of America

Obama administration dropping 'enemy combatant' term

MiamiHerald.com - 5 hours ago

Seeking to distance itself from the Bush administration, the Justice Department is omitting 'enemy combatant' from its filing that defines detention of prisoners at Guantánamo.

No more 'enemy combatants' at Guantanamo Bay Los Angeles Times

US Won't Label Terror Suspects as 'Combatants' New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



wc#3 (2009-03-14 12:04:00)

Rush Limbaugh predicted he wouldn't be able to close Gitmo. There's no place to put these guys, unless Nancy Pelosi has a room at her mansion...

Taxpayer money going toward AIG bonuses (2009-03-15 15:22)

Bankers complained about mortgage relief for homeowners, but now we learn that AIG, which received \$170 billion in federal bailout money intended on paying \$165 million in bonuses and compensation to its officers.

Under government pressure, AIG said it would cut bonuses by at least 30 percent, but many in Washington are calling for legal action.

In a letter Sunday to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold called on the Obama administration to explore "legal options" to stop the payments.

"I write to ask why any bonuses would be legally required, given the company's abysmal performance," says Feingold, D-Wisconsin. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Massachusetts, told Fox News that bailout recipients should follow stricter compensation rules, called on Congress to see if the payouts are "legally recoverable."

"We can't just violate legal obligations, I understand that," Frank said. "But I do want to find out at what point these legal obligations were incurred. Who said, and at what point, 'We're going to give these bonuses no matter what?' And I do think it's inappropriate for those people to stay in power at that company."



FOXNews

Widespread Backlash Over AIG Bonuses

ABC News - 44 minutes ago

By JOHN HENDREN The Obama administration had one word today for insurance giant AIG's plans to award senior executives hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses and retention pay: "outrageous."

AIG's insistence on bonuses raises ire in Washington CNN

Administration, Lawmakers Turn Up Heat on AIG Over Bonuses Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Steve (2009-03-15 19:19:00)

So apparently everyone's surprised? It's as if AIG asked "who can we make fools of?", and our Congress jumped up and raised their hands and said "pick me, pick me". Doesn't anyone think that a lot of this AIG debacle could have been avoided if anyone in Congress had thought to ask some questions, to do some homework, to lay down some stipulations? But no, as long as they're throwing money - ANYWHERE - Congress thinks they're doing their job.

Pro (2009-03-16 01:28:00)

AIG = Allowing Irreversible Greed.

AIG = All in Greed.

AIG = Arn't I Greedy.

AIG = A \$ #holes, in general.

This is sick. Why in the world are we helping these companies that keep sending millions to people who do not know how to run a company? They cry yet get paid millions on the "average joes" taxes. Furthermore, I fear this is just the tip of the iceberg. Look what Enterprise rent-a-car did to get bailout funds:

<http://www.butasforme.com/2009/02/25/alert-enterprise-rent-a-car-may-have-fired-employees-as-fake-evidence-when-lobbying-for-bailout-money/>

Not to make excuses for these people, but the bailouts are making crooks out of everyone that touches the money.

Anonymous (2009-03-16 08:51:00)

The bonus payout excesses at AIG are just the tip of the iceberg of what is happening with the other Wall Street bailouts including Bank of America. Working productive Americans are bailing out the same crooks that destroyed our economy along with 45 % of the wealth in the world and now the American taxpayers and our children will be forced to live a far lower standard of living with reduced prosperity and opportunities due to this but only we pay the price.

Washington has bailed out the banks, Wall Street & their Washington special interests and much of the cost is added to the national debt to be paid by this and future generations while real estate and investments continue to fall. Find out what a

growing repudiate the debt movement could mean for treasuries, the dollar, gold and the stock market and how this is a better alternative than Washington's plans to monetize the debt in future years and tax and destroy our remaining wealth by depreciating the dollar.

The Campaign to Cancel the Washington National Debt By 12/21/2012 Constitutional Amendment is starting now in the U.S.
See: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=67594690498> &ref=ts

Obama reverses Bush food safety policy (2009-03-15 17:46)

President Barack Obama said yesterday he is forming a Food Safety Working Group to "upgrade our food safety laws for the 21st century," and he appointed former New York City health chief Margaret A. Hamburg as Food and Drug Administration commissioner.

"There are certain things only a government can do," Obama said. "And one of those things is ensuring that the foods we eat, and the medicines we take, are safe and do not cause us harm."

The Obama administration fully banned the butchering of disabled cattle reversing a move by the Bush administration that allowed exceptions to the rule.

"The closing of the loophole improves the welfare of animals and strengthens the safety of our nation's food supply," the Humane Society said in a statement.

Obama said in his taped address that many of the nation's food-safety laws "have not been updated since they were written in the time of Teddy Roosevelt," and that the Bush administration underfunded and understaffed the FDA, which is responsible for handling food safety.

Referring to his own children, Obama said: "No parent should have to worry that their child is going to get sick from their lunch, just as no family should have to worry that the medicines they are buying will cause them harm,."

 ABC News

Obama Targets Food Safety

Washington Post - 22 hours ago

President Obama meets with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the Oval Office, and interpreters work behind them. Lula told reporters last week that he hoped to see the United States work to ease what he says have often been hostile ...

Video: Obama Announces FDA Pick in Address The Associated Press [EMBED]

Obama Vows to Overhaul Food Safety ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama orders Treasury to block A.I.G. bonuses (2009-03-16 09:58)

President Barack Obama on Monday said he ordered the Treasury Department to try to block A.I.G., a corporation that has received substantial bailout money, from giving large bonuses to its staff.

"In the last six months, A.I.G. has received substantial sums from the U.S. Treasury," Mr. Obama said. He ordered Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner "to use that leverage and pursue every single legal avenue to block these bonuses and make the American taxpayers whole."

Speaking in the White House East Room Obama said A.I.G.'s financial woes were due to recklessness and greed."

"Under these circumstances, it's hard to understand how derivative traders at A.I.G. warranted any bonuses at all, much less \$165 million in extra pay," Obama said. "How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat?"

 ABC News

Obama Orders Treasury Chief to Try to Block AIG Bonuses

New York Times - 30 minutes ago

By HELENE COOPER WASHINGTON - President Obama vowed to try to stop the faltering insurance giant American International Group from paying out hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses to executives, as the administration scrambled to avert a populist ...

Obama: AIG can't justify 'outrage' of exec bonuses The Associated Press

Obama expresses outrage over AIG bonus payments Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Clinton warned on Pakistan aid if justice not reinstated (2009-03-16 14:22)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned Pakistan's leadership over the weekend that aid could be if Islamabad does not defused a crisis over a top judge, U.S. officials said Monday.

Pakistan's government announced on Monday it would reinstate Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief justice.

Clinton told reporters that reinstating Chaudhry was an important move toward reconciliation in Pakistan.

 ABC News

Clinton warned Pakistan of aid cut if no deal

Reuters - 47 minutes ago

By Sue Pleming WASHINGTON, March 16 (Reuters) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Pakistan's president and opposition leader over the weekend US aid could be at risk unless they defused a crisis over a top judge, US officials said on Monday.

AP Analysis: Zardari pays to end Pakistan crisis The Associated Press

Big win for Pakistan protesters Christian Science Monitor

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama goes on offensive for budget (2009-03-16 19:02)

President Barack Obama is gearing up his media campaign and supporters for the budget battle in Congress. Millions of emails have been sent to supporters urging them to call their Congressional representatives. Obama is using the same campaign techniques that won during the election to help push his agenda through Congress. The president is heading to California where he will appear at town hall meetings and make a guest appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

 Boston Globe

Obama using campaign tools to promote agenda

Chicago Tribune - 38 minutes ago

By Peter Nicholas and Janet Hook | Washington Bureau WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's millions of campaign supporters are receiving e-mails urging them to call members of Congress.

Sonoran Bank VP Frank Coumides meets with President Obama at White ... Bizjournals.com

Day 56: Obama Takes Aim At AIG CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama notes Irish roots (2009-03-17 12:19)

President Barack Obama noted that he discovered his distant Irish roots only while campaigning to become president. He made the remarks while greeting Irish Ambassador Michael Collins at the Oval Office today.

"My mother's family can be traced back to Ireland," President Obama said, "and it turns out that our first Irish ancestor came from the same county that Taoiseach once represented. So we may be cousins. We haven't sorted that through yet. But even if blood we're not related by culture and affinity ... by friendship we are certainly related." "Although I think it's wonderful that you visited the Oval Office and Washington, what you're really missing out is the South Side Irish Parade in Chicago, which I think is one of the great events," Obama said.

The president also mentioned the recent violence in Northern Ireland and called for peace to prevail.

 CBC.ca

President Obama: Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen and He "May Be ...

ABC News - 3 hours ago

President Obama welcomed Irish Ambassador Michael Collins to the Oval Office today with some interesting news. "My mother's family can be traced back to ...

Why Does Obama Have the Luck o' the Irish? DiversityInc.com (subscription)

Barack Obama's Northern Ireland envoy about to be named Telegraph.co.uk

Barack Obama's Irish Ancestry Oneindia

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-03-18 04:01:00)

"The weight of this crisis will not determine the destiny of this nation. The answers to our problems don't lie beyond our reach. They exist in our laboratories and universities; in our fields and our factories; in the imaginations of our entrepreneurs and the pride of the hardest-working people on Earth. Those qualities that have made America the greatest force of progress and prosperity in human history we still possess in ample measure. What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more.

<http://www.barackobama.totalh.com/current-work/74-obama-qwe-will-rebuild-we-will-recover-we-will-emerge-stronger-than-beforeq.html>

Obama firing up grassroots over budget (2009-03-18 07:58)

President Barack Obama is mobilizing his grassroots supporters to rally behind his new budget proposal as it is debated in Congress.

Obama's election organization has changed its name from Obama for America to Organizing for America and is counting on its large base of supporters to help the president advance his agenda.

An email has been sent out to the huge Obama database of volunteers and supporters urging them to participate in a neighborhood canvas.

"There will be some trial and error," said David Plouffe, former Obama campaign manager who is now helping direct the Organizing for America project.

"It is not a political campaign, where the ultimate goal is one 'yes' vote on Election Day," he added, "but simply the conversation — making sure these important debates do not happen solely on cable TV among Washington politicians, but are occurring on doorsteps and diners." The president's budget is widely opposed by Republicans and even some members of his own party have expressed reservations over the price tag. The flareup over A.I.G. bonuses makes the situation very tricky for the Obama team. They need to convince the public that the White House has their interests in mind, more so than those of the corporate elite.

 WA today

On the White House Can Obama's Grass-Roots Supporters Fire Up the ...

New York Times - 3 hours ago

By JEFF ZELENY The latest on President Obama, the new administration and other news from Washington and around the nation. Join the discussion.

Obama calls on Americans to support budget The Associated Press

Tactic May Break Obama's Bipartisan Pledge, GOP Says Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's commerce pick faces hearing (2009-03-18 08:20)

President Obama's choice for commerce secretary faces confirmation hearings today before the committee before the Senate Commerce Committee.

Former Washington state Governor Gary Locke said he would back tough enforcement of US trade laws if confirmed. "More than free trade, though, I believe in fair trade. That means we must enforce our trade agreements and place a high value on environmental, labor and safety standards," Locke said in prepared remarks for his confirmation hearing.

"We must look over the horizon and prepare for the new economy that will emerge when the recession passes. Simply put, we must rebuild, retool and reinvent our national strategies for sustained economic expansion."

Locke is Obama's third choice for U.S. commerce chief after New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg both withdrew their nominations.

Locke served two terms as governor from 1997 to 2005 and has since worked for a Seattle law firm on international trade issues. Locke is of Chinese American descent.

 Reuters

Obama commerce pick vows strict trade enforcement

Reuters - 54 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Former Washington state Governor Gary Locke said on Wednesday he would insist on tough enforcement of US trade laws if confirmed by the Senate to lead the US Commerce Department.

Blog: Reporter Scott MacFarlane, Covering Locke Confirmation Hearings KIROtv.com

Locke faces Commerce confirmation hearing KNDO/KNDU

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama signs UN gay rights agreement (2009-03-18 16:44)

The White House is reversing the Bush administration's policy by signing the UN declaration calling for decriminalization of homosexuality, the State Department announced today.

"The United States is an outspoken defender of human rights and critic of human rights abuses around the world," State Department spokesman Robert Wood told reporters.

"As such, we join with other supporters of this statement, and we will continue to remind countries of the importance of respecting the human rights of all people in all appropriate international fora."

 SheWired

In turnaround, US signs UN gay rights document

Reuters - 4 hours ago

By Sue Pleming WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States, in a reversal of Bush administration policy, has decided to sign on to a UN declaration that calls for the decriminalization of homosexuality, the State Department said on Wednesday.

US endorses UN gay rights text The Associated Press

Obama: Decriminalize Homosexuality Worldwide ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama: First sitting president to appear on Tonight Show (2009-03-19 09:34)

Barack Obama will become the first sitting president to appear on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" on Thursday night.

Obama is in California for two days to promote his budget proposal to Congress. Obama will discuss the economic situation on The Tonight Show, which averages five million viewers a night.

The president also appeared on ESPN where he said he was backing the North Carolina Tarheels in the upcoming NCAA basketball tournament.



Times Online

Obama to appear on 'Tonight Show'

CNN - 1 hour ago

LOS ANGELES, California (CNN) – Guests on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" usually appear to promote a movie, TV show, book or album, but President Obama will visit the NBC show Thursday to make the case for his financial rescue plans.

Video: Obama on Leno: What Are Risks, Rewards? The Associated Press [EMBED]

Obama Goes to Town Hall, 'Jay Leno' to Spread Economic Agenda ABC News

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CNN - 1 hour ago

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Video: Obama on Leno: What Are Risks, Rewards? The Associated Press [EMBED]

Obama Goes to Town Hall, 'Jay Leno' to Spread Economic Agenda ABC News

Obamas to plant organic White House garden (2009-03-19 16:51)

The first family is preparing to plant a garden on the White House lawn with groundbreaking set for Friday on the South Lawn.

Michelle Obama will be joined by students from Bancroft Elementary in Washington who will help plant and maintain the 1,100 sq. foot garden.

The fully-organic garden will include 55 kinds of vegetables; a variety of berries, herbs and two beehives for honey. White House chefs will use the produce for the first family and for other official events.

The Obama garden will be the first since Eleanor Roosevelt planted a victory garden that helped inspire millions of Americans to take up home gardening.



Berkeleyan Online

Obamas to Plant Garden on White House Lawn

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

By Jane Black For more than a decade, food activists have rallied, cajoled, even pleaded for a garden on the White House lawn. Now they're finally going to get it.

Obamas Prepare to Plant White House Vegetable Garden New York Times

White House to break ground on 'kitchen garden' The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



GrammyM (2009-03-19 19:01:00)

I live in Elwood, Illinois and we have a place here in our town called the "Children's Garden Project." It, too, is planted & maintained by children from the Elwood Community School. (Of course with the help of the Children's Garden project committee.) It has grown into a wonderful place to spend time during the summer. It has a "pizza garden," an ABC flower garden, a "yellow brick road" as well as area's for children to play in. When it is time to harvest the various vegetables, the children come to take home & enjoy the "fruits" of their labors. It is a beautiful & greatly enjoyed part of Elwood, Illinois

Obama sends Persian New Year message (2009-03-20 14:24)

President Barack Obama sent a Persian New Year's message Friday offering a new start in relations between the two countries.

Breaking sharply from Bush administration policy, Obama released a video with Farsi language subtitles to coincide with the major Iranian festival of Nowruz, a 12-day holiday that marks the arrival of spring and the beginning of the new year on the Persian calendar.

One of Obama's campaign promises was to talk with the country's foes unlike the previous administration.

But Iranian leaders have been not been as eager. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has criticized Obama, saying he would continue the policies of former President George W. Bush.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said Iran that he welcomes negotiations with the United states but only if Washington changes its attitude toward Tehran.

 guardian.co.uk

Iran brushes aside new Obama video message

The Associated Press - 43 minutes ago

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - The Iranian government brushed aside a Persian New Year's message Friday from President Barack Obama offering to resolve years of hostility, saying it wants concrete change from Washington before it's ready to enter a dialogue.

Video: Obama offers new start with Iran France 24 [EMBED]

US has new steps planned on Iran: White House AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



First Lady breaks ground for garden with schoolchildren (2009-03-20 14:35)

First Lady Michelle Obama broke ground for the new White House vegetable and fruit garden in the South Lawn.

Twenty-six elementary schoolchildren helped Mrs. Obama with the initial work and will come back in a couple of weeks to plant seedlings. In June, the children will come to harvest the garden and will help the White House chefs cook and eat a meal made from the produce.

[EMBED]

 Telegraph.co.uk

Michelle Obama Breaks Ground on White House Garden

Washington Post - 33 minutes ago

By Jane Black With the help of local elementary school students, Michelle Obama broke ground for a White House garden and initiated a public campaign to help Americans better understand where their food comes from.

At the White House: Working the soil for a new vegetable garden USA Today

Ground is broken for White House 'kitchen garden' The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on Obama and Iran (2009-03-20 15:39)

Here's more on President Barack Obama's video message for the Persian New Year including parts of the video.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama pitches budget during weekly address (2009-03-21 15:02)

In his weekly address, President Barack Obama pitched his budget proposal that he calls his economic blueprint for the future.

Obama said his priorities were energy, education and health care, and solving the budget deficit.

"I will be discussing each of these principles next week, as Congress takes up the important work of debating this budget. I realize there are those who say these plans are too ambitious to enact," said Obama. "To that I say that the challenges we face are too large to ignore. I didn't come here to pass on our problems to the next President or the next generation - I came here to solve them."

"The American people sent us here to get things done, and at this moment of great challenge, they are watching and waiting for us to lead. Let's show them that we are equal to the task before us, and let's pass a budget that puts this nation on the road to lasting prosperity." [EMBED]



RAW DATA: President Obama's Weekly Address

FOXNews - 6 hours ago

In his weekly address, President Obama announced that in the coming week, he will highlight the core principles of his budget, including reform of the energy, education and health care sectors.

Obama Makes Pitch for Budget Priorities Washington Post

Obama to Push Programs in Budget New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



atreides (2009-03-23 09:40:00)

Good morning Mr president,

I have a question. On bad times on economy is performing badly why a bank (JP Morgan) seeking for bailout have plans to buy 2 new private jets? That what people angry and frustrated. We all suffering the same pain but some are flying on luxury and fancy private jet. Is a commom sense if you don't have money to spend you don't buy. I don't find any another to keep in touch with you. I understand the security sorround you as the president and also as a citizen. I hope you have a wonderfull day.

Anonymous (2009-03-23 18:50:00)

[skip to main](#) | [skip to sidebar](#)

There's many areas to save money

Monday, March 23, 2009

Try this for cut backs or to your penny pitcher list

CHANGE THE PRISON AND JAILS SYSTEMS AND THAT WILL SAVE US SOME MONEY.

Develop a semi-military program, trained them to help fight for our country, develop self esteem, work ethics, more education, hygiene awareness and verbal communication programs. Sweep the schools-streets-corners of these old-young trifling criminals, disrespectful, deaf loud music playing, deformed penguin walking, violent, drug selling infested, unemployed miss-fits.

Ship them to Iraq or Quake or any foreign country. Enlist them into a military rehab program or some type of a structured environment. Re-educated on esteem, trained to fight for there/our country. Have requirements such as reforming and informing. Do not have a time limit as the military forces. Sense they're so gun happy, put them on the front line of hire. Let them earn a righteous and honest wage and skills as well as reforming from drugs. Have a very strict policy. There no discharging, must be strict with anti drugs tolerance, even if it requires use of medication to suppress the desire and a strict

dress code enforcement Pants must be warm up on your hips or there will be a fine of \$50 to \$100.00 dollars. Consequences if drugs are found in their system. There's no means of discharge for wrongfully acts of any kind. But there will be additional time added. If there system is clean for 1 year, times will be taken off and no offence. 5 years should be the maxium to reform and in the process they have to learn a skill and take random drugs test to stay out of the ram of others under the influence. When they return home they have a probation officer and a random Urine test and a card to show of his participation in the rehab and who to call if after the 3rd situation of being in the wrong place of people, so he can be returned. If found selling drugs, or with someone else with drugs or drugs in their system and hanging around on the corners. Police officers should be informed of this person, participation in the rehab system, this person should be detained until the probation officer has been inform. All the officers aware of the strike 3 program of stiffer and longer and hard manual labor. In the south and they did not want to return.

The jails are just a resorts for these people that's why they hurt, kill or steal to go back to the sure 3 course meals air/heat, clean bedding, clothes, TV/cable and games, they can not take being responsible they have been spoiled. Posted by jstsimmer at 5:39 PM 0 comments

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Try this for cut backs or to your penny pitcher li...

About Me

jstsimmer

View my complete profile

Anonymous (2009-03-23 18:52:00)

[skip to main](#) | [skip to sidebar](#)

There's many areas to save money

Monday, March 23, 2009

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or to your penny pitcher li...

Obama stands by Geithner (2009-03-22 10:03)

President Barack Obama continued to defend Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Saturday. Obama said he would not accept a Geithner resignation amidst a storm of criticism on the handling of the financial crisis. The news of the A.I.G. bonuses may have been the last straw against Geithner, who also suffers from image problems due to tax problems revealed during his confirmation hearing. However, Geithner is expected to discuss his plan to mend the banking system in testimony before a congressional committee on Thursday,

 China Daily

Obama says would not accept Geithner resignation

Washington Post - 3 hours ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama on Saturday stepped up his weeklong defense of much-criticized Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, saying he would not accept his resignation even if it was tendered.

Video: Should Geithner Go? CBS [EMBED]

Shelby Says Geithner May Not 'Last Long' as US Treasury Chief Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama, Geithner reveal bank rescue plan (2009-03-23 08:00)

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner unveiled the Obama administration's plan to fix the banking crisis estimating it could cost up to \$1 trillion in public and private funds.

Geithner's plan depends much on private investors, including hedge funds and private-equity firms, to purchase \$500 billion to \$1 trillion of toxic assets with government incentives such as low interest loans and risk-profit sharing.

"The point of the program is to save the taxpayers money by attracting private capital," a senior administration official said. About \$350 billion still remains from the old financial bailout money passed during the Bush administration. The Public-Private Investment Program will use between \$75 billion- \$100 billion of Treasury funds to leverage \$500 billion and potentially expand to \$1 trillion of private assets aided with financing from the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Some analysts though believe it will take much more money just to stabilize the banking system. Nouriel Roubini, for example, thinks it will take \$3.5 trillion more to deleverage and unfreeze the credit markets.

 ABC News

Obama's \$1 Trillion Plan to End Bank Crisis

ABC News - 1 hour ago

By MATTHEW JAFFE and JAKE TAPPER Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced today a much-anticipated plan that could cost up to \$1 trillion in public and private funds which the president hopes will play a key role in ending the nation's banking ...

US Treasury to buy up to \$1 trillion of banks' toxic assets Bizjournals.com

Treasury Unveils Details of Plan to Relieve Banks of Toxic Assets Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama gives second primetime news conference tonight 8:01 PM ET (2009-03-24 12:21)

President Barack Obama will hold his second primetime news conference since taking office tonight at 8:01 pm ET. Obama's last primetime press conference was on Feb. 9.

Recent polls indicate that the A.I.G. bonus controversy has not hurt Obama personally but has generated a lot of public anger over both Wall St. and Washington.



MiamiHerald.com

First thoughts: Meeting the press, again

msnbc.com - 6 hours ago

Meeting the press, again: The last – and only other – time President Obama conducted a primetime news conference was on Feb. 9, the very day he traveled ...

Obama to Hold Prime Time Press Conference News10.net

Obama To Hold Second Press Conference Tuesday AHN

Obama Takes His Message To Primetime CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Is Obama hogging the airwaves? (2009-03-24 20:27)

The president appeared again tonight on primetime and there are a few articles out there suggesting that Obama may be saturating the broadcast media.

Just recently the commander-in-chief has appeared on ESPN, The Tonight Show aside from appearing on the prime time slot tonight. Not only the broadcast media is involved though as either Obama or his wife or kids are turning up on magazine covers and all over the internet.

Another president who used the media extensively was Franklin Delano Roosevelt who held "fireside chats" over the radio during the Great Depression and World War II. During times of distress, the people tend to look to the leadership and that means the president in the United States.

The difference between now and then is Americans are now a lot less patient. FDR delivered 31 fireside chats between 1933 and 1944, which was considered a lot at the time.

Obama has already appeared on primetime twice in just over two months in office. In a world of instant media that includes text messages and email updates, people may not be able to wait for months during such distressing times without hearing directly from the big kahuna.

Of course, some complain that the nature of some of Obama's appearances is not presidential enough. The appearance with Jay Leno for example. They used to say the same thing about Bill Clinton playing the saxophone. It's a different generation though and Obama has shown he has the touch of reaching the younger people.

Embedded video from CNN Video

On the White House Obama Selling His Economic Plan on the Airwaves ...

New York Times - 12 hours ago

By PETER BAKER Had enough yet? Tune into CNN and you may find President Obama's latest public town hall meeting. Flip to NBC and you might come across the president yukking it up with Jay Leno.

Condi Rice follows Obama on the Leno show USA Today

President Obama is new 'King of all Media,' with Leno, ESPN, GQ New York Daily News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama-Sarkozy clash at G20? (2009-03-25 12:45)

There's some news going around the blogosphere about a possible feud between U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Nicholas Sarkozy. Obama wrote a letter to former French president Jacques Chirac in response to an earlier letter sent to him by Chirac in mid-March.

Chirac and Obama will meet at the G20 summit and the U.S. president has released an editorial to international newspapers suggesting the need to stimulate the economy. France is known to be less than enthusiastic about a stimulus plan, and more concerned about regulating the financial markets.

Video: Obama vs Sarkozy: plans for G20 France 24 [EMBED]

Obama writes letter to Chirac - blogosphere goes crazy Christian Science Monitor

Foreign Policy: why is **Obama** writing to Jacques Chirac? Examiner.com

Does Barack **Obama** know who the President of France is? Telegraph.co.uk

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Live: Obama online town hall meeting (CNN) (2009-03-26 09:25)

Check out CNN's live coverage of the Obama online town-hall meeting.

[http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream1 &iref=lb100](http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream1&iref=lb100)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



NY race is seen as Obama test (2009-03-27 12:52)

President Barack Obama 's influence will be tested on Tuesday during the special election to fill the House seat vacated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who in turn had replaced Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Democratic candidate Scott Murphy, who supports Obama's agenda, is facing Republican Assembly Leader Jim Tedisco, who opposes it.

Vice President Joe Biden is helping Murphy with a radio ad were he says: "That's why this special election you'll be holding next Tuesday, March 31, is so important to me. I'm supporting Scott Murphy for Congress, and so is President Obama." Although it might seem that Obama just took office, the race is already for the 2010 congressional elections when Democrats and Republicans will battle for control of Congress. The Republicans are hoping to repeat what happened to Bill Clinton when his party lost both the House and Senate after just two years in office.

Democrats are hoping to cool off divisive tensions in their own party to avoid a repeat of what happened during Clinton's first term.



ABC News

Obama Faces Upstate NY Test Tuesday

ABC News - 1 hour ago

BY TEDDY DAVIS and FERDOUS AL-FARUQUE Tuesday's special election in upstate New York to fill the House seat vacated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, DN.

NY Special Election Is Too Close to Call Washington Post

A Democratic Lead in NY-20? Atlantic Online

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama to unveil auto plan Monday (2009-03-29 14:46)

President Barack Obama is expected on Monday to reveal

plans to restructure the nation's auto industry . "We think we can have a successful U.S. auto industry. But it's got to be one that's realistically designed to weather this storm and to emerge at the other end much more lean, mean and competitive than it currently is," President Obama said in a taped interview broadcast today on CBS' "Face the

Nation.”

General Motors and Chrysler have submitted plans to make their companies more viable, but Obama said more is needed.

Obama said that the companies still have more to do and that success is “going to mean a set of sacrifices from all parties involved, management, labor, shareholders, creditors, suppliers, dealers.”

 ABC News

Obama Auto Plan Expected Tomorrow

ABC News - 1 hour ago

By ALICE GOMSTYN The Obama administration is set to unveil new measures Monday to restructure the nation's devastated auto industry.

Obama wants more reform from GM, Chrysler Christian Science Monitor

Obama Faces Tough Issues on First Overseas Trip as US President Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama heads to G20 with challenges ahead (2009-03-30 18:13)

President Barack Obama heads to the G20 summit in Europe hoping to hammer out a plan to deal with the global economic crisis.

Obama is immensely popular abroad, but his ideas on reviving the world's economies has met resistance among other world leaders. Key European allies, for example, have balked at his call for them to stimulate their economies with increased spending.

The president's popularity and media mastery might help in prodding other members into consensus on a coordinated global effort on the recession.

 Times Online

On Europe Trip, Obama Will Test Power of Popularity

Washington Post - 6 hours ago

By Dan Balz Can President Obama lead the world? That may overstate the ambitions Obama will take with him to Europe Tuesday for a week-long series of ...

Obama Heads Back to Europe, Challenges in Tow New York Times

Obama Learns If European Popularity Can Pay Dividends Bloomberg

Obama heads overseas to tackle world economy USA Today

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2009-03-31 08:00)

President Barack Obama is pushing a new U.S. strategy at the Afghanistan Conference in the Hague, Netherlands today.

Obama wants a shift toward rebuilding and stabilizing the country with less emphasis on ramping up troop strength and military action.

"All too often in the past seven years, our efforts have been undermanned, underresourced and underfunded," Clinton said. "While there is great temptation to retreat inward in these difficult economic times, it is precisely at such moments that we must redouble our efforts."

The one-day, 73-country conference marks a turning point in the U.S. policy on Afghanistan, as Obama shifts the focus to economic reconstruction, eases pressure on Europe to send more troops, and steps up efforts to stamp out terrorist havens in neighboring Pakistan.

Since taking office in January, Obama has ordered 17,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan to fight the resurgent Taliban, the radical Islamist movement ousted by the U.S. in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attacks. As part of a strategic review announced last week, Obama also said he will send 4,000 more trainers to Afghanistan to build up the local army.

European leaders, hectored by the Bush administration for failing to dispatch enough frontline troops to the war zone, expressed relief that the U.S. will shoulder the extra military burdens.

New U.S. Approach

The new U.S. approach is not to badger European governments to send forces they don't have, a senior U.S. official told reporters in Brussels yesterday. Instead, as shown by today's "big tent" conference, the point is to encourage allies to do what they can.

While financial aid to rebuild Afghanistan's economy and build up its 79,000-strong army figures high on the priority list, today's conference isn't meant to solicit extra donations on top of more than \$21 billion pledged at a Paris conference last June.

Still, some new aid was on offer. China offered \$75 million over five years and Spain said it will consider pledging 120 million euros (\$160 million) for 2010-12. The European Commission, donor of \$2.1 billion to Afghanistan since 2002, said it will provide another 60 million euros for rural development and to help stage Afghan elections on Aug. 20. The U.S. offered \$40 million for the elections, further defraying costs estimated by the United Nations at \$220 million.

As the deepest economic slump since World War II strains government budgets, Clinton also said much of the money plowed into Afghanistan has been misspent on programs that don't work.

 Boston Globe

Obama strategy focus of Afghan talks

BBC News - 12 hours ago

By David Loyn Delegates from 70 nations are gathering in The Hague to discuss reconstruction in Afghanistan, against the new backdrop of the major Obama ...

Video: Hague - Afghanistan: new US strategy France 24

[EMBED]

US to Pledge \$40 Million for Afghanistan Elections New York Times

Clinton Urges Aid for Afghanistan, Warns on Threats Bloomberg

Protests upstage G20 summit (2009-03-31 19:01)

Protests turned angry at the G20 summit taking attention away from the press conference by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and President Barack Obama .

A mob rushed the Royal Bank of Scotland, and thousands of other angry demonstrators pushed against police barricades outside the Bank of England, the U.K.'s equivalent of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank. Some protesters were visibly injured.

About 2,500 uniformed officers are providing security in the area and

The Times newspaper described the city as "Fortress London."

To make matters worse for Obama, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said he may not sign on to any agreement that does not include major reform of the world financial system.

 BBC News

G20 protesters storm RBS branch as Brown-Obama meeting upstaged

Times Online - 16 minutes ago

Anti-capitalist protesters stormed a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland today as police struggled to keep a lid on increasingly violent G20 demonstrations in the City of London.

Video: G20: Obama, Brown call for united front France 24 [EMBED]

Thousands Protest in London Ahead of G20 Summit Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



3.4 April

Live: Obama meets Queen (2009-04-01 08:56)

Live CNN coverage of President Barack Obama's meeting with Queen Elizabeth II.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream1>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



House approves \$3.5 trillion budget (2009-04-02 19:03)

The House of Representatives approved President Barack Obama's \$3.6 trillion federal budget on Thursday with Republican yes votes.

The Senate is also looking like it will pass a partisan and similar \$3.5 trillion budget without any Republican support.

"The American people want us to find our common ground where we can, but they did not send us here to split the difference," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "They want real change, and we have come here to make a difference." The budgets will allow the expiration of Bush-era tax cuts for wealthier Americans but continue those benefiting the middle class.

 FOXNews

US House approves \$3.45 trillion budget

Reuters - 55 minutes ago

By Jeremy Pelofsky and Richard Cowan WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US House of Representatives on Thursday passed a federal budget that embraces President Barack Obama's initiatives on healthcare, energy and education but leaves the government deeply in ...

House Approves Budget With No Republican Support New York Times

House Republicans roll out alternative budget CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama calls for world free of nukes (2009-04-03 09:50)

President Barack Obama on Friday called for a world without atomic weapons as he traveled in France.

Obama held talks with French President Nicolas Sarkozy in eastern France before a NATO summit hosted by France and Germany.

"Even with the Cold War now over, the spread of nuclear weapons, or the theft of nuclear material, could lead to the extermination of any city on the planet," Obama told crowd at the French city of Strasbourg.

On Sunday, he said: "This weekend in Prague I will lay out an agenda to seek the goal of a world without nuclear weapons."

 BBC News

Obama seeks world free of nuclear arms

Reuters - 1 hour ago

... France (Reuters) - US President Barack Obama called on Friday for a world without atomic weapons and urged allies to stand firm against Iran's nuclear ...

Video: Russia would like to be engaged, but not married with NATO RT [EMBED]

Obama Reaches Out to Europeans, Plans Push for Nuclear Disarmament Voice of America

Obama Holds Town Hall in Strasbourg, France Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama reaches out to Muslim world in Turkey (2009-04-06 19:58)

President Barack Obama, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, spoke to the Turkish Parliament in Ankara on Monday.

Obama reached out to the Muslim world telling the audience that the U.S. was not at war with Islam and wanted a relationship that went beyond simply battling terrorists.

Many analysts think that Obama wants to use Turkey's secular government as a model in his relationship with Islamic nations.

 ABC News

Obama Says US Is Not at War With Islam

New York Times - 24 minutes ago

President Obama, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, spoke to the Turkish Parliament in Ankara on Monday. By HELENE COOPER ANKARA, ...

Video: Turkey is a US door into Muslim world RT [EMBED]

LI Muslims praise Obama's speech, but want action Newsday

In Turkey, Obama says US is not at war with Islam Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



guler can (2009-04-08 06:02:00)

Hello,

There is a poll in www.rifqee.com about Mr. Obama's visit to Turkey. Please write your opinion about it.

Regards,

Obama may compromise on carbon trading (2009-04-08 17:46)

The White House is ready to battle global warming – a change from the previous administration – but he may be willing to compromise in some cases.

Some businesses may be able to get emission allowances free bypassing the carbon trading system.

The Obama administration is also looking to fight climate change by cooling air according to science adviser John Holdren.

Known as geoengineering, the idea involves shooting pollution particles into the upper atmosphere to reflect the sun's rays.

Using such an experimental measure is only being thought of as a last resort, Holdren said.

"It's got to be looked at. We don't have the luxury ... of ruling any approach off the table."

 Telegraph.co.uk

Obama Is Open to Compromise on Climate Agenda

Wall Street Journal - 2 hours ago

By IAN TALLEY WASHINGTON – The White House is open to compromise on certain key elements of its climate-change agenda, including whether businesses could get some emissions allowances free, administration officials said Wednesday.

Obama looking at cooling air to fight warming The Associated Press

Obama to Meet With Economic Team on Stress Tests, Recovery Plan Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

CBS/NY Times: Obama more popular than ever (2009-04-09 13:01)

With a very tough economy, many had thought that President Barack Obama would have a shortened "honeymoon" in office, but polls seem to indicate continued high public approval.

Despite the reality of how difficult it will be for Obama to get his more important campaign promises passed by Congress does not seem to dampen the enthusiasm for the former "change candidate."

The latest CBS News/New York Times opinion poll gives Obama a 66 percent approval rating from the public, the highest of his presidency.

X

FOXNews

Behind The Numbers: Obama's Approval Rating

CBS News - 5 hours ago

The latest CBS News/New York Times poll showed President Obama receiving a 66 percent approval rating from the public, his highest since taking office in January.

How Obama can start closing the growing partisan chasm New York Daily News

Posted on April 9th, 2009 by Daniel Larison American Conservative Magazine

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

myclob (2009-04-11 06:24:00)

Would you like to contribute to my new Obama blog?

<http://r2aadwo.blogspot.com/>

It's called "Reasons to Agree & Disagree With Obama" I want people to help me brainstorm logical arguments, books, movies, and songs that can be said to strengthen or weaken the arguments made by President Obama.

Obama sees "glimmers of hope" in economy (2009-04-11 12:34)

President Barack Obama was optimistic about the economy on Friday seeing "glimmers of hope" in recent economic news.

In a press conference, Obama mentioned a sharp increase in small business loans and progress in the housing market

1500

including historically low mortgage rates and increased refinancing.

The president though was cautious about predicting the future and said the economy was still "under severe stress."

Obama sees signs of economic progress

Reuters - 3 hours ago

By Matt Spetalnick WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama said on Friday the recession-hit US economy was showing "glimmers of hope" despite remaining under strain and promised further steps in coming weeks to tackle the financial crisis.

Video: Obama: Economy Showing 'Glimmers of Hope' The Associated Press [EMBED]

Comment by Dan Stein Pres., Federation for American Immigration Reform

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obamas find new dog for Malia and Sasha (2009-04-12 19:04)



White House photograph by Pete Sousa

The Obama family finally completed their search for a new dog choosing 6-month-old Bo, a Portuguese water dog they adopted from Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and his wife, Victoria.

The girls have named the dog Bo because they have cousins with a cat named Bo and Mrs. Obama's father was nicknamed Diddley, after the musician Bo Diddley.

"We couldn't be happier to see the joy that Bo is bringing to Malia and Sasha," the Kennedys said in a statement. "We love our Portuguese water dogs and know that the girls, and their parents, will love theirs, too."



Times Online

One Obama Search Ends With a Puppy Named Bo

New York Times - 31 minutes ago

By HELENE COOPER WASHINGTON - For the first time since settling into the White House, the Obama family attended church services in Washington on Sunday, but their closely watched search for a spiritual home was overshadowed by news that a longer quest ...

Portuguese water dog 'Bo' joins first family USA Today

Obamas' new White House pet excites US news hounds guardian.co.uk

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2009-04-12 20:18:00)

Alright! Congratulations!

A lapdog for the lapdog of the bourgeoisie!

Castro praises Obama for easing restrictions (2009-04-14 17:49)

Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Tuesday praised the President Barack Obama for lifting U.S. restrictions on travel and sending money to Cuba.

"The measure of easing the restrictions on trips is positive although minimal. Many others are needed," Castro wrote on a Cuban government website.

"We do not have the slightest desire to harm Obama," Castro said. "He doesn't have responsibility for what occurred and I'm sure he won't commit the atrocities of (former President George W.) Bush."

X

guardian.co.uk

Castro says Obama steps positive

Reuters - 1 hour ago

By Jeff Franks HAVANA (Reuters) - Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Tuesday praised the Obama administration for lifting US restrictions on family travel to Cuba, but said more changes were needed in US policy towards the island.

Cuba travel changes split old, new exiles MiamiHerald.com

Open for business guardian.co.uk

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obamas release federal income tax returns (2009-04-15 15:14)

The Obamas reported income of \$2.7 million, according to copies of the 2008 federal tax return released today. Most of the income came from President Obama's \$2.5 million on book royalties.

The first couple paid \$855,323 in federal taxes, while making \$172,050 in charitable contributions to 37 different charities. Obama's presidential salary is \$400,000 a year. The hefty income though was a big drop from last year's

\$4.2 million when Obama's books sales were at their peak.

 FOXNews

Obamas' Earnings, Helped by Royalties, Stayed High in '08

New York Times - 44 minutes ago

By CHARLIE SAVAGE WASHINGTON - President Obama and his wife released their 2008 federal tax return on Wednesday, showing that they paid \$855323 in federal income taxes on a combined household income of \$2656902.

Obamas release 2008 tax return Los Angeles Times

Obama addresses economy, tax plan CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama unveils high-speed rail plan (2009-04-16 09:08)

Nice to hear President Barack Obama pushing high-speed rail today.

Obama revealed a plan for a new national network of high-speed passenger rail lines to help solve the country's transportation and environmental problems.

The plan mentions 10 potential high-speed rail lines including California, the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, the Southeast, the Gulf Coast, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York and New England.

"My high-speed rail proposal will lead to innovations that change the way we travel in America. We must start developing clean, energy-efficient transportation that will define our regions for centuries to come," Obama said speaking at the White House.

Some of the corridors would host trains with speeds of up to 150 mph.

Japan and Western Europe are noted for successful implementation of high-speed rail.

 MiamiHerald.com

Obama says US high-speed rail "overdue"

Reuters - 53 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Barack Obama outlined his plan for developing "long overdue" high-speed rail on Thursday that would rival air travel, create jobs and help curb the US transportation system's appetite for oil.

Obama unveils high-speed rail plan CNN

Obama Pushes Vision for High-Speed Rail Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama meets with Calderon in Mexico City (2009-04-16 16:34)

[EMBED]

Video: Obama meets with Calderon in Mexico UPI President Barack Obama met with Mexican President Felipe Calderon today in Mexico City.

The two leaders talked about cracking down on drug violence near the border, immigration and other matters.

 Times Online

Obama to Push to Ratify Treaty on Gun Trafficking

New York Times - 10 hours ago

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG MEXICO CITY — President Obama, seeking to send a strong signal that he is committed to stopping the rising tide of cross-border drug ...

Mexico drug clash kills 16 ahead of Obama trip Reuters

Obama: US, Mexico will face border violence together USA Today

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Cuba ready to talk with Obama (2009-04-17 07:45)

Raúl Castro today said the was ready 'to discuss everything' with the U.S.

Some analysts feel that Latin American leaders at the 5th Summit of the Americas will ask President Barack Obama to lift the embargo on Cuba.

"We've told the North American government, in private and in public, that we are prepared, wherever they want, to discuss everything – human rights, freedom of the press, political prisoners – everything, everything, everything that they want to discuss," Castro said Thursday at a summit in Venezuela.

President Obama removed restrictions on Cuban Americans ability to visit relatives in Cuba and to send money to the country. Travel restrictions for Americans of non-Cuban descent remain in place.

The U.S. government has enforced an embargo on Cuban beginning three years after Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Many experts on the region and a growing segment of the Cuban American population feel America's Cuba policy has accomplished little and has become detached from its original goals.

 Voice of America

Raúl Castro: Cuba ready 'to discuss everything' with US

CNN - 54 minutes ago

(CNN) – The Cuban government, long the object of a US economic blockade, is prepared to meet with the Obama administration, Cuba's leader said.

Video: Bloggers focus on 5th Summit of the Americas France 24 [EMBED]

Americas summit: Readers' views BBC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anger over CIA torture memos (2009-04-17 08:09)

Many groups and former victims have expressed dismay at the Obama administration's decision not to prosecute CIA operatives who used interrogation methods on detainees, including American citizens, that are in clear violation of the Geneva Convention.

However, Washington officials who authorized such methods will not be protected from prosecution although it would likely be Congress and not the White House that carry out such actions.

Secret CIA memos released Thursday told of interrogation techniques that included waterboarding, splashing detainees with water and exposing them to the cold, placing insects in their small, dark cells, allowing interrogators to punch and slap detainees, and threatening detainee families.



Times Online

Disappointment with US not prosecuting CIA

The Associated Press - 19 minutes ago

CAIRO (AP) - Human rights groups and former detainees in US custody expressed disappointment Friday with the decision by President Barack Obama not to prosecute CIA operatives who used interrogation practices described by many as torture.

Video: USA: Release of CIA interrogation memos France 24 [EMBED]

[EMBED]

CIA 'amnesty' dismays campaigners BBC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama shakes hands with Hugo Chavez (2009-04-17 18:00)

Hehe, great shot of President Barack Obama shaking hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at the Summit of the Americas.



(HO/AFP/Getty Images)

Pictures of the handshake were quickly distributed by Venezuelan media

According to Chavez, Obama initiated the handshake. The Venezuelan president said that he told Obama that he wanted to reset relations with America.

"With this same hand I greeted Bush eight years ago. I want to be your friend," Chavez reportedly said.

 Times Online

Obama, Chavez shake hands at summit

msnbc.com - 21 minutes ago

Photos released by the Venezuelan government show the two smiling and Obama touching Chavez on the shoulder. The Venezuelan presidency says Obama initiated ...

White House: No meeting set between Obama, Chavez The Associated Press

Obama, Chavez shake hands at summit-Venezuela govt Reuters UK

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama sees positive signs from Cuba, Venezuela (2009-04-19 16:05)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama said he saw positive signs from Cuba and Venezuela during his trip to the Summit of the Americas.

Hugo Chavez shook hands with Obama and gave him a book, on exploitation of Latin America, as a gift. Chavez also approached Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saying that the would restore diplomatic relations with the U.S. after withdrawing his country's ambassador during the Bush administration.

Obama said he hoped the conference in Trinidad and Tobago would lead to further improvement in relations with Cuba and like-minded nations in the hemisphere. The president dismissed Republican claims that Obama's friendly encounters with Chavez somehow made the United States less safe.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama open to torture memos proble (2009-04-21 16:34)

In a welcome development, President Barack Obama on Tuesday said lawyers who authorized illegal interrogation of terror suspects may be prosecuted.

Obama had suggested last week that the nation might need to move on in reference to the CIA interrogation methods, but on Tuesday he said it was up to the attorney general to determine whether or not prosecution is warranted.

"I think there are a host of very complicated issues involved here," Obama said. "As a general deal, I think that we should be looking forward and not backwards. I do worry about this getting so politicized that we cannot function effectively, and it hampers our ability to carry out national security operations."

 guardian.co.uk

Obama open to torture memos probe, prosecution

The Associated Press - 14 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) - Widening an explosive debate on torture, President Barack Obama on Tuesday opened the possibility of prosecution for Bush-era lawyers who authorized brutal interrogation of terror suspects and suggested Congress might order a full ...

Comment by Brad Olson, Ph.D. Research Professor, Northwestern University

Obama doesn't rule out charges over interrogations Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Herveen (2009-04-22 20:16:00)

Wow..awesome

<http://herveendoank.blogspot.com>

Anonymous (2009-04-25 00:14:00)

Voice your opinions - let yourself be heard!!!!

<http://obamasplanforeconomyandamerica.blogspot.com>

Clinton makes surprise visit to Iraq (2009-04-25 08:13)

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is making a surprise visit to Iraq today after a recent upsurge in violence in the war-torn country.

Clinton characterized the bombings as signs of desperation among those who reject democratic change in Iraq.

"I think in Iraq there will always be political conflicts, there will always be, as in any society, sides drawn between different factions, but I really believe Iraq as a whole is on the right track," Clinton said.

"I wanted to come today to repeat the commitment President Obama and I and the American people have to Iraq and to assure you that as we make this transition the United States will stand with the people of Iraq."

The Obama administration plans to withdraw most troops out of Iraq over the next few years.



ABC News

Clinton reassures Iraq in surprise stop in Baghdad

Los Angeles Times - 37 minutes ago

The secretary of State's comments are upbeat despite recent violence. She tells Iraqis the US is 'very committed' even though troops will be withdrawn.

Video: Raw Video: Sec. of State Clinton Arrives in Iraq The Associated Press [EMBED]

Clinton Says Iraq on 'Right Track,' Vows US Support Bloomberg

Reuters - The Associated Press - Washington Post - Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



FOX nixes Obama press conference (2009-04-27 17:55)

FOX network will not air President Barack Obama's news conference on Wednesday, the company announced today.

While FOX is generally thought to have a conservative bias, it is not unusual for networks to decline presidential requests for press coverage. FOX denied former President George W. Bush on a number of occasions for example. However, given the situation with a deep recession and the recent declaration of a national public emergency, one would think the president deserves some air time.

The network will air the drama Lie to Me instead.



Seattle Post Intelligencer

FOX won't air Obama's press conference

Christian Science Monitor - 1 hour ago

By Jimmy Orr | 04.27.09 President Obama's got yet another prime time press conference scheduled - this one for Wednesday night - and the FOX network is saying enough's enough.

Fox drops Obama, but is that a big deal? Entertainment Weekly

Fox sticking with schedule instead of Obama The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-04-28 09:20:00)

Yes, we can: <http://klaustoon.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/oh-ba-ma/>

Don Sabatini (2009-04-30 03:21:00)

Nice blog.

Moremony services (2009-05-06 22:08:00)

Nice blog Moremony services is a leading company for Affiliate marketing ,Seo services,Website development and Internet marketing. Our online marketing experience of more than 7 years has eventually equipped our teams with a very important ability of managing change and updating our marketing tools to match the consumer behavior. Moremony Services is one of the top internet marketers globally and are #1 online marketing company in India. We are an Indian internet marketing company that promises you economic advantages.

Obama orders review of NYC overflight (2009-04-28 21:27)

President Barack Obama on Tuesday said he would investigate a Dept. of Defense photo shoot of images of Air Force One flying near the Statue of Liberty.

The low-flying jet aircraft frightened many New Yorkers who thought they're city was in the midst of a 9-11-like

attack.

"It will not happen again," Obama said of the incident. The president ordered his deputy chief of staff, Jim Messina, to "conduct a review into how the decision was made to conduct the flight to understand why the decision was made and to ensure that it never happens again."

Louis Caldera, the director of the White House Military Office, took responsibility for the flight, which cost \$328,835.

 CTV.ca

Obama Orders Review of Jet Flyover

New York Times - 2 hours ago

WASHINGTON - President Obama on Tuesday ordered an internal review of the high-flying photo shoot over New York City, saying it was an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars to capture images of Air Force One flying near the Statue of Liberty.

Video: Notebook: Photo-Op Faux Pas CBS [EMBED]

Obama Orders Review of New York Flight as Cost Put at \$328835 Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Michelle Obama starts day by walking Bo (2009-04-30 14:16)

Her daughters promised to walk the new dog, but it is Michelle Obama who starts her day by taking Bo for a morning stroll.

"I love my Bo," the First Lady said Thursday although the spunky Portuguese Water Dog puppy forces her to get up earlier in the morning than usual.

"I got up at 5:15 a.m. in the morning to walk my puppy," Michelle said. "That's how my day starts. Even though the kids are supposed to do a lot of the work, I'm still up at 5:15 a.m. taking my dog out. So for everyone who has a child asking for a puppy - you have to want the dog. As I do. I love my Bo."

 New York Times

First Lady: Bo is "Most Famous Member" of the Obama Family

ABC News - 30 minutes ago

First Lady Michelle Obama said today that her daughters are thriving in Washington and her days start with a pre-dawn walk with the "most famous member" of the Obama family, new puppy, Bo.

First Lady Michelle Obama adores puppy Bo, and it's a good thing ... New York Daily News

Michelle Obama's Latest Fashion Statement: Shiny Sneakers U.S. News & World Report

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



3.5 May

Obama announces Souter retirement from Supreme Court (2009-05-01 13:32)

President Barack Obama interrupted the daily White House Press Briefing to announce the retirement of Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

This will give Obama his first opportunity to appoint a Supreme Court justice although he will not likely change the ideological makeup of the court as Souter and Obama's pick are likely to share similar views.

Pres. Obama on Souter Retirement

[EMBED]

 Times Online

Souter Says He Will Leave Supreme Court in June

New York Times - 34 minutes ago

By DAVID STOUT WASHINGTON - Justice David H. Souter formally told the White House on Friday that he will retire from the Supreme Court at the end of the current term in June, a development that stirred intense interest about who his replacement will be ...

Video: Pres. Obama on Souter Retirement C-SPAN

Justice Souter to Retire From Court Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-05-03 06:42:00)

Check this out :

<http://mavpersonal.blogspot.com/>

Senators offer Obama advice on justice pick (2009-05-03 12:54)

Senators weighed in Sunday on President Barack Obama's choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

"I don't like to see an ideologue of either the right or the left. I don't think we're going to have one," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Republican Senator Richard Shelby on the same show also hoped Obama would make a pragmatic choice that did not lean too far to the left.

"If he will appoint a pragmatist, someone who is not an ideologue, that someone is not just going to light all the light bulbs in America on the left, I think that would be good for the country," Shelby said.

Orrin Hatch and Arlen Specter voiced similar viewpoints on ABC and CBS respectively.

 FOXNews

Senators Urge Obama to Look Outside the Box, Beyond the Bench for ...

FOXNews - 28 minutes ago

With Supreme Court Justice David Souter retiring this summer, Democrats in particular say the vacancy is an opportunity for President Obama to diversify the ...

Obama May Seek Out Centrist to Replace Souter on Supreme Court Bloomberg

Hatch: Is Obama using 'code' for activist judge? The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obamas celebrate Cinco de Mayo a day early (2009-05-04 18:15)

[EMBED]

The Obamas celebrated Cinco de Mayo a day early at the White House on Monday.

Cinco de Mayo, or "the Fifth of May," celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over French forces on May 5, 1862 and is widely celebrated by Mexican Americans. The holiday, in fact, is more important among Mexicans in the United States than in Mexico itself, and has come to be celebrated by many people of non-Mexican background.

 AFP

At Cinco de Mayo Event, Prayers from First Lady for Swine Flu ...

Washington Post - 5 hours ago

The remarks came during a day-early celebration of Cinco de Mayo. "Feliz Cuatro de Mayo," Obama teasingly told the students. "Why? Because what's tomorrow ...

Obama marks Mexico's Cinco de Mayo holiday AFP

Obama to attend Cinco de Mayo event on May 4 The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Eugenio Costa (2009-05-11 03:59:00)

Bologna, Thursday, 26 February 2009

I believe that this world needs more deeds and fewer words. In 1964 in Milan I saw my father save the lives of two children, at great risk to his own life. The instant before he acted was not filled with doubt or reasoning, but was focused on the end: save the children. If he had not acted in that moment, the lives of those two children would have been lost. The difference is in the act.

The Dalai Lama, on the occasion of his visit to Rome in December of 2007, uttered strong words that unfortunately were not widely heeded: "Deeds," he said, "in this world there are too many words and not enough deeds." The power of ideas is manifested in acts; without these there is nothing to hold on to.

You possess a magnetic force, and it is that which we need to give vitality and energy to new projects; to be free to breathe life into the hope for a better future.

The work that I am sending you represents that which many say, but no one translates into action: three fundamental principles for a better future, so that all may have life through the efforts of everyone. It embodies these messages in a positive way:

Writing, even in water, does not disappear;

The dove, as a symbol of peace, although it has a light frame, is greater than ever;

The sun is more alive, because the environment is cleaner.

The power of ideas to improve this world is rising, and you are surely its greatest proponent.

My contribution is minimal, but heartfelt, and it has been made possible by various people who, like me, share my dream.

Best Regards

Eugenio Costa

Italy-

Alisa Facchini

California USA

<http://www.eugscommunications.com>

Alisa Facchini (2009-05-11 04:02:00)

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I wish to clarify that the work entitled NO VIOLENCE by Eugenio Costa left Italy addressed to me, Alisa Facchini, inside a tube specifically formed and decorated for it. It should have been mounted on a frame before being sent to President Obama. Due to personal problems I undervalued the importance of the work. I felt unable to complete my task, and I arranged for the canvas to be shipped in the same manner in which it was sent to me.

I was concerned that there was no way to be sure that the mounted canvas would arrive at the White House, and that President Obama might not receive the work NO VIOLENCE by Eugenio Costa, and I had it transported directly to the White House without being mounted, and without informing Mr. Costa. Not having further notice of the package, Mr. Costa sought through various channels, your office being one of them, to locate the canvas.

After a trace conducted with the help of FedEx agents, I learned that the canvas was retrieved by an agent of the White House, and is likely undergoing the usual security controls.

I would like to emphasize that my actions were not intended to prevent the work NO VIOLENCE from reaching President Obama or to present the artist Eugenio Costa in a bad light, but to ease my fears that the canvas would eventually be abandoned in a warehouse.

Please accept my sincere apologies for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Thank you for your understanding,

Alisa Facchini

alisafacchini@yahoo.com

Obama releases budget plan details (2009-05-07 15:42)

The White House today revealed its \$3.4 trillion federal budget for the coming fiscal year that includes cuts or elimination of 121 programs for a total savings of \$17 billion. "We can no longer afford to spend as if deficits don't matter and waste is not our problem," Obama said in a statement released by the White House. "We can no longer afford to leave the hard choices for the next budget, the next administration – or the next generation,"

"In Washington, I guess that's considered trivial," he said. "But these savings, large and small, add up." He said the cuts would save nearly \$17 billion in 2010 alone, adding, "Even by Washington standards, that should be considered real money." Republicans are opposing Obama's massive budget saying that it will increase the debt problem, but the administration claims that government spending is needed to compensate for lower consumption by consumers and businesses.

Obama Releases Details of \$3.4 Trillion Budget Plan

Washington Post - 2 hours ago

President Obama announces his budget plan, which is to trim 121 government programs by \$17B, as a first step with the ultimate goal to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term.

Video: Obama proposes \$17 billion in budget cuts UPI

[EMBED]

Republicans rip Obama for insufficient budget cuts CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama admin projects \$1.84 trillion deficit (2009-05-11 09:52)

The Obama administration expects the annual budget deficit to hit \$1.84 trillion in 2009, the Office of Management and Budget reported Monday.

The record deficit is slightly larger than the \$1.75-trillion deficit the White Houses 2009 projection when the president entered office in February.

However, the White House said it was committed to cutting expenses and projected a deficit for 2012 at \$557 billion.

"The deficits in these years, now projected to be 12.9 % and 8.5 % of GDP, respectively, are driven in large part by the economic crisis inherited by this administration," the Office of Management and Budget reported today.

"Treasury now estimates that overall federal revenue will be less than was projected in February by between \$30 billion and \$50 billion in each of this year and next. We also have more information about the severity of the financial crisis facing the nation, and this is reflected in new, higher estimates for the cost of financial stabilization efforts undertaken."



guardian.co.uk

White House predicts budget deficit to grow to \$1.84 trillion this ...

Los Angeles Times - 1 hour ago

The record figure surpasses the \$1.75 trillion projected earlier in the year. Obama administration points to the nation's financial crisis in explaining updated numbers.

Video: Obama Proposes \$2 Trillion in Healthcare Savings The Associated Press

[EMBED]

<

Obama wants estate tax hike, corp loophole cuts Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama meets with experts on health care (2009-05-11 19:33)

President Barack Obama is continuing his discussions with health care leaders saying that "the country is geared up" for health care reform.

The group focused yesterday on saving health care costs. Today they will be discussing best practices currently in use that can be applied to the system as a whole. He cited specific companies that have had success in reforming their health care systems.

Obama also talked about preventative measures as a method of reducing costs.

"We're doing some stuff on health care because I think the country is geared up, businesses are geared up, families are geared up to go ahead and start solving some of our extraordinary health care system problems," Obama told reporters.

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama says creative employers have found ways to both lower their health care costs while also improving the lives of their workers. (May 12)

 Telegraph.co.uk

Obama on health care: "The country is geared up"

USA Today - 1 hour ago

"You may be seeing a theme," Obama told reporters after speaking with business leaders about health care costs. "We're doing some stuff on health care because I think the country is geared up, businesses are geared up, families are geared up to go ...

Healthcare: \$2 Trillion Saved, But Not Penny Lost? Atlantic Online

HHS Secretary Hails Partnership With Health Care Industry ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Imee (2009-05-13 05:02:00)

I'm glad that Obama met with leading health care experts—I think it's one of the most effective ways to show that he is taking the issue seriously and with passion. I hope the health care reform becomes successful.

Obama to reveal Supreme Court pick soon (2009-05-12 18:05)

President Barack Obama will soon announce his choice for Supreme Court justice according to senators who met with him Wednesday.

Obama is replacing Justice David Souter who is planning to retire.

The president met with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on Judiciary; and Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy. According to the senators, Obama did not mention any names in connection with his choice.

 Boston Globe

Senators: Obama soon to reveal pick for high court

The Associated Press - 39 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama plans to announce his Supreme Court choice soon but isn't saying who is being seriously considered, senators who met with him said Wednesday.

GOP wants 60 days before Supreme Court nominee hearings USA Today

On the White House A Premium on Secrecy in Vetting of Court Pick New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



White House wants oversight of derivatives market (2009-05-13 16:22)

The Obama administration is asking Congress for power to regulate the shadowy derivatives market that many feel contributed to the collapse of financial institutions. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner sent a letter Wednesday to members of Congress saying that he wants to create a centralized electronic system to monitor trading on the derivatives market.

He also called for tougher capital and reporting requirements.

"All (over-the-counter) derivatives dealers and all other firms whose activities in those markets create large exposures to counterparties should be subject to a robust regime of prudential supervision and regulation," Geithner wrote in his letter. "Key elements of that robust regulatory regime must include conservative capital requirements, business conduct standards, reporting requirements and conservative requirements relating to initial margins on counterparty credit exposures."



ABC News

Obama Takes On Shadow Banking System

Forbes - 47 minutes ago

To remedy the situation, administration officials want to establish a central clearinghouse for derivatives trading, and they want Congress to bulk up the ...

Geithner Urges Electronic OTC Derivatives Trading Bloomberg

US regulators propose regulating OTC derivatives Reuters

Treasury asks for control of derivatives market The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama should also roll back Reagan tax cuts (2009-05-14 07:41)

Most religions recognize excessive hoarding as a sin. Accumulating food, money, land or other resources to the detriment of the community and society has been widely condemned since ancient times.

A policy of tax cuts and laws advantageous to the rich that started in the Reagan years has allowed the wealthy to become wealthier, while the poor have become poorer. Whatever "trickle down" has happened, has been of very limited scope.

The massive enrichment of the wealthy resulted in "problems" in investing the money in such a way that the rich could still become even more richer.

This is where the derivatives and hedge funds come in. These economically-unhealthy funds were created something close to a no-lose situation for the super-wealthy. They allowed the rich to create massive hoards of cash preventing capital from recycling into the economy.

Here are some figures showing both the first bracket tax rate for lowest income earners, and the top bracket for the richest Americans, since 1964.

Applicable

Year Income

brackets First

bracket Top

bracket Source

1964 - 16 % 77 % IRS

1965-1967 - 14 % 70 % IRS

1968 - 14 % 75.25 % IRS

1969 - 14 % 77 % IRS

1970 - 14 % 71.75 % IRS

1971-1981 15 brackets 14 % 70 % IRS

1982-1986 12 brackets 12 % 50 % IRS

1987 5 brackets 11 % 33 % IRS

1988-1990 3 brackets 15 % 28 % IRS

1991-1992 3 brackets 15 % 31 % IRS

1993-2000 5 brackets 15 % 39.6 % IRS

2001 5 brackets 15 % 39.1 % IRS

2002 6 brackets 10 % 38.6 % IRS

2003-2009 6 brackets 10 % 35 % Tax Foundation

Notice in 1982 the tax rate on the richest income earners, which had ranged from 77 % to 70 % in previous years, drops by about 29 percent in 1982 due to the Reagan tax cut in 1981.

In comparison, the rate for the poorest folk required to pay income tax dropped by only about 14 percent.

From that point onward, the rate on the highest bracket continues to decline down to 35 percent. Also the number of tax brackets declines from 15 in 1982 to only 6 in 2009.

If we compare the average tax rates from those years before 1982 in the above figures, there is a more than 50 percent drop for the wealthiest taxpayers compared to only 29 percent for the poorest ones.

Such favoritism for the rich is key to the current economic debacle. The fact is that minus recycling all this hoarded capital we will probably only see things continue to deteriorate despite the blips one might witness in the stock market.

So rolling back the Bush tax cuts probably will not be enough. There will only be a marginal increase in revenues. We need to start rolling back all the tax cuts and favors legislated for the super rich since the Reagan years in order to start dealing with the multi-trillion dollar deficits. Otherwise we will not have to wait until our "grandchildren's time" to see more repercussions resulting from decades of hoarding by the richest of the rich.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Stockcalamity_logic (2009-05-14 14:35:00)

Well, Reaganomics were in a different economic era as now. I feel we are moving towards what economics call a "Laffer Curve" where tax cuts beyond a point will significantly affect government revenues. Does this make sense?

Do Reply.

Human rights groups blast Obama on military trials (2009-05-15 13:40)

Human rights groups criticized President Barack Obama for his allowing military commissions to continue trying terrorism suspects.

Obama spoke out against the practice during the presidential campaign, but the administration says that new rules will prevent abuses found in the former practice, and will give officials the option of a civilian or military trial.

"Statements obtained using interrogation methods that constitute cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment will no longer be admitted as evidence at a trial," said Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman. "It's disappointing that Obama is seeking to revive rather than end this failed experiment. There's no detainee at Guantánamo who cannot be tried and shouldn't be tried in the regular federal courts system," Jonathan Hafetz of the American Civil Liberties Union told The Times.


"Even with the proposed modifications, this will not cure the commissions or provide them with legitimacy. This is perpetuating the Bush administration's misguided detention policy."

 ABC News

Human Rights Groups Blast Obama Guantanamo Decision

Voice of America - 53 minutes ago

By Al Pessin President Obama's decision to continue using military commissions to try terrorism detainees now held at Guantanamo Bay has surprised and angered human rights activists.

Video: White House: Military Tribunals Have Place  The Associated Press

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Barack Obama revives military courts to try Guantánamo terror suspects Times Online

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Attract Prosperity (2009-05-16 07:02:00)

2 shockers in about as many days. First the refusal to release the terror photos and now this.

Extreme individuals need to be brought to justice by any means necessary. The freedom which is afforded to all law-abiding citizens is a product of doing what might not be popular but what is right for the U.S. and its interests. If the ACLU attorneys always had their way we would live in anarchy. A nation of people with their own individually-decreed laws.

Congrats Mr. President. You went 2 for 2 this week :)

Ryan

theindoswiss (2009-05-16 08:53:00)

hi,

check out

www.indoswiss.co.cc respectively www.indoswiss.cjb.net!

Obama receives honorary degree ahead of Notre Dame address (2009-05-17 11:32)

President Barack Obama received an honorary degree at Notre Dame Sunday ahead of a commencement speech later in the day.

Obama's appearance at Notre Dame was greeted with protests by Catholic pro-life groups.

The protests are mainly outside of the university's gates, but protest leaders said about 20 people are inside and will demonstrate during Obama's commencement address.

 BBC News

Obama Receives Honorary Degree at Notre Dame, as Protests Build

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

Notre Dame demonstrators showed up in their largest numbers yet as President Obama arrived in South Bend, Ind. A Notre Dame police officer, left, instructs anti-abortion protesters to leave the campus during an anti-abortion protest Saturday in South ...

Obama heads to Notre Dame USA Today

Protesters await Obama's appearance at Notre Dame Chicago Sun-Times

BBC News - ABC News - Seattle Post Intelligencer - New York Times

[EMBED]

First lady Michelle Obama speaks to UC Merced graduates during commencement.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama, Netanyahu to meet in White House (2009-05-17 18:40)

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu making his first visit to the United States during the Barack Obama's presidency meets with Obama in the White House today.

Obama and Netanyahu have wide differences on how to resolve the crisis between Israel and the Palestinians creating the widest gap between Washington and Jerusalem since Netanyahu's last term during the Clinton administration.

The U.S. president is expected to intensify focus on a two-state solution after those efforts were mostly submerged during George W. Bush's tenure.

 Straits Times

Obama to Focus on Two-State Solution

Washington Post - 3 hours ago

By Scott Wilson President Obama begins a weeks-long focus on Middle East diplomacy today as he meets for the first time with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin ...

Video: USA: Benyamin Netanyahu meets with Barack Obama  France 24

[EMBED]

Israeli Press Skeptical of Obama-Netanyahu Negotiations FOXNews

US-Israel ties at risk when Netanyahu meets Obama United Press International

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama announces fuel efficiency plan (2009-05-19 08:53)

President Barack Obama announced today new standards for fuel efficiency aimed at the year 2016. Two environmental organizations praised Obama's move to cut emissions and increase fuel efficiency. The Alliance to Save Energy called the policy that will raise the fleet standard to 35.5 miles per gallon of gas for model year 2016 "an historic step forward and a win-win-win for consumers, the environment and U.S. energy security."

"The new CAFE standards and emissions policies continue and speed up the forward drive to a green energy future that has been promised by this administration," alliance President Kateri Callahan said in a news release.

The Union of Concerned Scientists also praised Obama saying that his cuts would eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 230 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2020, equivalent to removing 34 million of today's cars and light trucks from the road that year.

"When candidate Obama went to Detroit, he told the automakers what they needed to hear - they had been making bad choices, and as president, he would steer a new course and revitalize the industry by bringing more fuel efficient vehicles to market," Michelle Robinson, director of UCS's Clean Vehicles Program, said in a news release. "Now President Obama is delivering on his promise to strengthen the auto industry, while reducing vehicle pollution and our dependence on oil."

The new cars will cost more to pay for upfront but will give the consumer savings at the gas pump.




Los Angeles Times

Two groups praise Obama's fuel changes

United Press International - 1 hour ago

Under the new corporate average fuel economy standards Obama announced, the fleet standard will be 35.5 miles per gallon of gas for model year 2016. ...

Video: Obama raises the bar on auto emissions  WWLP.com

[EMBED]

Consumer Federation of America: Obama Fuel Economy Standard Will ... YubaNet

Obama Announces New Fuel Economy Standards FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Outsourcing corporations in arms over Obama tax plan (2009-05-19 20:24)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama's new tax plan is drawing fire from corporations who operate overseas.

Obama's new plan will cut tax exemptions of corporations operating overseas – companies that also must pay taxes in the countries where they are located.

The plan seems aimed at discouraging businesses from shipping their manufacturing, call center and other operations overseas where costs are cheaper.

High-tech companies – many having supported Obama during his campaign – have been outsourcing increasingly abroad and are particularly distressed by the proposal.

 The Associated Press

Who Will Pay for President **Obama's Tax** Increases?

Spero News - May 19, 2009

[6] Not surprisingly, President **Obama's** proposed **tax**increase will affect some regions more severely than others. Affluent residents in major metropolitan ...

Politics of **tax** policy Indianapolis Star

Obama admin takes on challenges Troy Messenger

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Live: Obama commencement address at Naval Academy (2009-05-22 07:31)

You may be able to watch President Barack Obama giving the commencement address at the U.S. Naval Academy by clicking the link below:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/flashLive/live.html?stream=stream2&iref=lb100>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama nominates first African American to head NASA (2009-05-23 18:10)

President Barack Obama yesterday nominated Retired Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr. as the new head of NASA.

Bolden, a former Marine aviator and space shuttle astronaut, will become the first African American to run the space agency if approved by the Senate.

Bolden also worked as CEO of a defense and aerospace consulting firm.

Among Obama's space goals include winding down the space shuttle program; sending a space crew to the Moon by 2020; and deployment of a climate change research and monitoring system in space

 MiamiHerald.com

Obama Picks Shuttle Veteran To Be First Black NASA Chief

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

By Scott Wilson President Obama yesterday nominated a former Marine aviator and space shuttle astronaut to become the new head of NASA and oversee a broad review of the agency's ambitions for manned and robotic space exploration.

Bolden Is Tapped to Run NASA Wall Street Journal

Obama picks former astronaut to lead NASA CNET News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



sirap (2009-05-23 20:38:05)

ok!

Obama SC justice pick expected soon (2009-05-24 13:55)

President Barack Obama is expected to announce his choice for Supreme Court justice soon probably maybe this Tuesday.

Obama has said that he would likely nominate someone with intellectual abilities but also a "common touch" connecting with ordinary people.

"You have to have not only the intellect to be able to effectively apply the law to cases before you," Mr. Obama told C-SPAN television on Saturday. "But you have to be able to stand in somebody else's shoes and see through their eyes and get a sense of how the law might work or not work in practical day-to-day living." The six people known to be under consideration by Obama are U.S. Appeals Court judges Wood and Sonia Sotomayor, Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno.

 FOXNews

With Nomination Imminent, Supreme Court Speculation Reaches Fever ...

FOXNews - 1 hour ago

Analysts are reading hard into President Obama's comments last week that he's looking for someone with "intellectual fire power, but also a little bit of a common touch" and a practical sense of the world.

The Next Justice Washington Post

Obama Expected to Announce Court Pick Soon Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama nominates Sonia Sotomayor to Supreme Court (2009-05-26 17:57)

President Barack Obama today nominated Judge Sonia Sotomayor as his pick to replace Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

Sotomayor will be the first Hispanic and Puerto Rican to serve on the nation's highest court, and will become the court's second sitting woman justice. Check out these videos.

[EMBED]

Obama nominates first Hispanic to Supreme Court

[EMBED]

Sonia Sotomayor responds to nomination

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sotomayor's rise to the top (2009-05-27 13:06)

Judge Sonia Sotomayor probably will not have a hard time getting confirmed as Supreme Court justice based on current knowledge of her past.

She has a compelling story being raised in the Bronx by a single mother and going on to the nation's most prestigious Ivy League schools. Her record of experience is vast especially given her age.

"It's a measure of her qualities and her qualifications that Judge Sotomayor was nominated to the U.S. District Court by a Republican President, George H.W. Bush, and promoted to the Federal Court of Appeals by a Democrat, Bill Clinton. Walking in the door she would bring more experience on the bench, and more varied experience on the bench, than anyone currently serving on the United States Supreme Court had when they were appointed," President Barack Obama said of his pick.

"Judge Sotomayor is a distinguished graduate of two of America's leading universities," the President said. "She's been a big-city prosecutor and a corporate litigator. She spent six years as a trial judge on the U.S. District Court, and would replace Justice Souter as the only justice with experience as a trial judge, a perspective that would enrich the judgments of the Court."

Her gender and ethnicity making her only the third woman and first Hispanic to serve on the Supreme Court could make it dicey for Republicans to mount any kind of attack on her particularly given her impressive success story and record.



guardian.co.uk

Sotomayor to face scrutiny over sensitive issues

CNN - 28 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (CNN) – There are likely to be two hot-button issues in Judge Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court confirmation hearings as senators gauge not only her positions but also some controversial comments she has made in her career.

Video: Who is Sotomayor?  KRQE.com

[EMBED]

Sotomayor's Past Rulings Encourage Environmentalists Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obamadoll (2009-05-28 07:05:46)

WILL YOU RE-ELECT OBAMA IN 2012?

ANSWER YES OR NO TODAY AND GET \$500 AND A FREE OBAMA BOBBLE HEAD.

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EXPO Racing (2009-05-28 21:30:59)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2AskNY6ijs>

RNC objects to Obamas's NYC night-on-the-town (2009-05-28 08:56)

Apparently the Republican National Committee is not happy that President Barack Obama took his wife Michelle to New York for a "romantic date."

"As President Obama prepares to wing into Manhattan's theater district on Air Force One to take in a Broadway show, GM is preparing to file bankruptcy and families across America continue to struggle to pay their bills," RNC spokeswoman Gail Gitcho said in an email this afternoon.

Obama flew Michelle to New York City today to see Air Supply (yes, Air Supply) perform in Manhattan's theater district.



The Associated Press

RNC slams Obama for romantic date with Michelle in New York

Christian Science Monitor - 1 hour ago

By Jimmy Orr | 05.30.09 Sure, it's one of the worst songs ever written. But perhaps President Obama and First Lady Michelle are closet Air Supply fans and are simply "Keeping the Love Alive" by enjoying a date-night in New York City tonight.

Looks like a night on Broadway for first couple The Associated Press

Looks like a night on Broadway for first couple WLOS

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Republicans on warpath against Sotomayor? (2009-05-29 15:11)

One would think that the Republican Party would not choose to go after Obama nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

The party has been in disarray as of late and things do not look that good for the upcoming 2010 elections were they appear headed for more losses in Congress and in state elections.

Why go and anger Latino and women voters by hassling Sotomayor? It's not like they're going to force Obama into nominating an ole time conservative to replace Justice David Souter.

But then again the Republicans have a party without effective leadership. Rush Limbaugh seems to be the main person at the helm right now. There is an ideological war going on in which we see moderates like Gen. Colin Powell

getting dissed by former Vice President Dick Cheney. Many conservatives want "liberal" members of the party to leave.

So it just may be that they will follow the lead of agitators like Limbaugh into battle against Sotomayor.

 guardian.co.uk

Sotomayor nomination

Seattle Times - 13 minutes ago

President Barack Obama announces federal Judge Sonia Sotomayor is his choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

Obama tries to deflect criticism from Sotomayor The Associated Press

White House: Sotomayor's Latina Comment Was Poor Choice of Words Washington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2009-05-31 15:33)

??????

3.6 June

Obama to talk on GM restructuring (2009-06-01 09:14)

President Barack Obama plans to announce his support for General Motors' restructuring plan at a noon appearance at the White House.

GM files for bankruptcy in Manhattan this morning.

The deal that will give U.S. taxpayers a 60 percent ownership stake in GM, and the government will infuse an additional \$30 billion into the restructured company. A shakeup of the board of directors is part of the plan.

Albert Koch has been appointed restructuring czar for General Motors.

Later, Obama will visit the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., a Washington suburb.

 FOXNews

Obama to address GM bankruptcy on Monday

Washington Post - 7 hours ago

AP WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama plans to announce his support for General Motors' restructuring strategy at a midday appearance at the White House. ...

Video: GM To File For Bankruptcy Today - Bloomberg  Bloomberg

[EMBED]

GM To File For Bankruptcy Monday - Obama Officials CNNMoney.com

Obama Saving GM Needed Dealmaker Team to Break It in Bankruptcy Bloomberg

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Bin Laden deputy denounces Obama's Egypt visit (2009-06-02 16:20)

As U.S. President Barack Obama prepares to give his campaign promise speech in Cairo, al-Qaeda's number two leader slammed Obama's Middle East tour.

Ayman al-Zawahiri said Obama's "bloody messages" could not be hidden by "polished words".

During his presidential campaign, Obama promised to make major speech on US-Muslim relations in some city in the Islamic world.

Al-Zawahiri called the U.S. president "that criminal who came seeking, with deception, to obtain what he failed to achieve on the ground after the mujahideen ruined the project of the Crusader America in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia".

Obama travels to Egypt on Thursday, where he will deliver his speech at Cairo University.




Telegraph.co.uk

Al-Qaeda deputy denounces Obama

BBC News - 2 hours ago

A message attributed to the deputy leader of al-Qaeda has denounced Barack Obama as a "criminal" on the eve of the US president's Middle East trip.

Video: Your views on Obama's speech in Cairo  Al Jazeera

[EMBED]

Obama's Speech to Muslims to be Part of Lengthy Effort Voice of America

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.




Michelle Obama campaigns for Judge Sotomayor (2009-06-03 16:02)

First lady Michelle Obama joined the fight for Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor on Wednesday as part of an effort to counter Republican opposition to President Barack Obama's pick to replace Justice David Souter.

Mrs. Obama told students at a high school graduation that after reading the story of Sotomayor, that she is "more than ready" for the new position.

Sotomayor like Obama is a graduate of Princeton University, and went on to Yale University Law School. She was at the top of her class at both schools. Mrs. Obama, who graduated from Harvard Law School, said that she identified with Sotomayor's story of her struggles as one of the few Latinas at Princeton and Yale.

 Voice of America

First lady Michelle Obama joins push for Sotomayor

The Associated Press - 24 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House dispatched first lady Michelle Obama to defend Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor on Wednesday, part of a broad offensive to humanize the judge that came as former GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich backed off his ...

Wyden meets with Sotomayor OregonLive.com

Sotomayor hits Hill again as GOP's race rhetoric cools CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama discovers hieroglyphic likeness (2009-06-04 12:44)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama toured the Great Pyramids of Giza together with adviser David Axelrod following his speech in Cairo today. The tour guide led them to a hieroglyphic symbol of a man's head with protruding ears that looked very much like the president.



Image courtesy of CNBC.

The hieroglyphic sign is actually that for the Egyptian word meaning "face" and thus might be considered what Ancient Egyptians considered a typical type of facial countenance.

Here is the sign in full color:



Wide front-facing ears are not unusual in ancient Egyptian art and one of the earliest kings, known as Narmer, was also portrayed with such earlobes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Baltimore (2009-06-04 20:38:25)

Zahi Hawass disagrees with the Egyptians were Africans meme.

<http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2009/05/president-obama-king-tut.htm> l

Aguitta (2009-06-04 21:11:03)

[http://support-love-obama.blogspot.com/2009/05/we-support-adn-send-our-love-t o-obama.html](http://support-love-obama.blogspot.com/2009/05/we-support-adn-send-our-love-t-o-obama.html)

Check this out, its not just spam.

Anonymous (2009-06-05 09:50:35)

I agree with the Egyptian vendors, and not dingbat Zahi Hawass!

Clinton rejects Israeli settlement expansion claims (2009-06-05 18:49)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton rejected yesterday Israeli claims that the Bush administration had secretly approved Jewish settlement expansion on the West Bank.

"We have the negotiating record, that is the official record, that was turned over to the Obama administration by the outgoing Bush administration," Clinton told reporters in Washington. "There is no memorialization of any informal and oral agreements."

President Barack Obama has stood firm in his call for Israel to stop expanding settlements, including that caused by population growth, stating that it violates commitments made by Israel in the 2003 "road map" peace plan. Clinton said any agreements reached with Israel during the Bush administration did not become part of official U.S. policy. "And there are contrary documents that suggest that they were not to be viewed as in any way contradicting the obligations that Israel undertook pursuant to the road map. And those obligations are very clear."

Clinton Rejects Israeli Claims of an Understanding on Settlements

Washington Post - 24 minutes ago

By Glenn Kessler Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton forcefully rejected yesterday Israeli claims that the Bush administration had secretly agreed to expanding Jewish settlements on the West Bank, deepening the impasse between the two countries.

Video: Obama's Speech Welcomed by Arabs? - Bloomberg 

[EMBED]

As US presses Israel, EU may join fray Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama honors D-Day veterans in Normandy (2009-06-06 10:05)

President Barack Obama today paid tribute to military personnel who lost their lives in the D-day invasion on the shores of the Omaha Beach landing in Normandy, France.

Obama called the story of the landing on the beaches of Normandy "the story of America."

"It is a story that has never come easy, but one that always gives us hope," he said. "For as we face down the hardships and struggles of our time, and arrive at that hour for which we were born, we cannot help but draw strength from those moments in history when the best among us were somehow able to swallow their fears and secure a beachhead on an unforgiving shore."

Speaking about the veterans that had gathered for the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, Obama said: "You remind us that our future is not shaped by mere chance or circumstance. Our history has always been the sum total of the choices made and the actions taken by each individual man or woman. It has always been up to us."

Among those present in the audience was Obama's great-uncle Charles Payne, who was part of the first American division to reach and liberate a Nazi concentration camp in Germany.



Obama says D-Day saved world from evil

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

Obama also promised an uncompromising stance against North Korea, which tested a nuclear bomb last month. In his speech, Obama said D-Day showed that human ...

Obama honors D-day heroes on 65th anniversary of invasion Los Angeles Times

Obama: D-Day "saved the world from evil" euronews

President Obama Marks D-Day Anniversary at Normandy ABC News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



mohd (2009-06-06 23:36:55)

download this video clip,

<http://sharecash.org/download.php?id=45624>

Obama rolls out pay-as-you-go plan (2009-06-09 15:15)

President Barack Obama today proposed "pay-as-you-go" spending requirements for the federal budget.

"The pay-as-you-go rule is very simple," Obama said from the East Room of the White House. "Congress can only spend a dollar if it saves a dollar elsewhere. This principle guides responsible families managing a budget. And it is no coincidence that this rule was in place when we moved from record deficits to record surpluses in the 1990s – and that when this rule was abandoned, we returned to record deficits that doubled the national debt. Entitlement increases and tax cuts need to be paid for. They are not free, and borrowing to finance them is not a sustainable long-term policy."

Obama added: "The reckless fiscal policies of the past have left us in a very deep hole. Digging our way out will take time, and patience, and tough choices."


The proposed law requires Congress to provide spending cuts and/or tax increases to pay for any new programs before passage. If lawmakers fail to pay for existing programs, under the new law, automatic cuts would take place. "Paying for what you spend is basic common sense. Perhaps that's why, here in Washington, it's been so elusive."

 Washington Post

Obama Seeks Rules to Restrain Spending

Washington Post - 5 hours ago

By Lori Montgomery and William Branigin With the budget deficit soaring toward a record \$1.8 trillion, the Obama administration is proposing tough new rules ...

Video: Obama Pitches Pay-as-you-go Plan for Congress 

The Associated Press

[EMBED]

Obama's Exaggerated Stimulus Estimates FOXNews

Obama seeks fiscal responsibility mantle Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama envoy says Palestinian state only viable solution (2009-06-10 18:19)

U.S. envoy George Mitchell speaking Wednesday after talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that Palestinian statehood was the only option in resolving the conflict with Israel.

Mitchell said that the Obama administration was committed to a successful conclusion of renewed peace talks.

"We are now engaged in serious discussions with Israelis, Palestinians and other regional partners to support this effort," Mitchell said. Obama has also called for a freeze on all Israeli settlements to include expansion by population growth in existing settlements.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is opposed to a settlement freeze and his conservative government could fall if he is seen as giving in.

 GulfNews

Obama envoy says Palestinian statehood only option

Washington Post - 13 hours ago

US President Barack Obama had made it clear "the only viable resolution to this conflict is for the aspirations of both sides to be met through two states," ...

Egypt praises Obama as welcome change from Bush The Associated Press

Obama's State of the Union With the Muslim World Huffington Post

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dogood (2009-06-16 21:50:34)

We Need a Public Health Care Option

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbWaYKeW4gU> &feature=quicklist &playnext=2 &playnext_from=QL

Obama to pitch health care plan to American Medical Association (2009-06-14 16:59)

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said that health "costs are crushing us," the day before President Barack Obama pitches his health care plan before the American Medical Association.

"It's hurting families. Our businesses are less competitive. We can't continue on this pathway," said Sunday on CNN's State of the Union.

Sebelius said that solving the economic recession is impossible unless the nation first tackles the spiraling costs of health care in the country.

"The president does not want to dismantle privately owned plans," Sebelius said. "He doesn't want the 180 million people who have employer coverage to lose that coverage. He wants to strengthen the marketplace."

"Higher cost does not translate to higher quality," the HHS Secretary said.

[EMBED]



ABC News

Obama Will Make His Case for Health-Care Reform Before AMA in Chicago

ABC News - 1 hour ago

The momentum behind Obama's health reform effort has added fuel to a ferocious lobbying campaign over the proposal for a public health plan.

Obama's health plan: Battle lines become clearer Christian Science Monitor

Health care status quo unacceptable: US official AFP

Health care costs are 'crushing us,' says Sebelius CNN Political Ticker

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Special envoy Mitchell to meet with Israeli PM (2009-06-16 19:06)

President Barack Obama is sending special Middle East peace envoy George Mitchell meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Paris, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

They will discuss the Middle East process between Israel and the Palestinians. Netanyahu recently said that he supports Palestinian statehood but with many conditions including demilitarization of the new state.

The Palestinians rejected Netanyahu's caveats, but the Obama administration has said that it seemed like a good start. The Israeli prime minister though has rejected Obama's call for a complete freeze on settlement expansion

including that coming from natural population growth in existing settlements.

 Times Online

Israel sees deal soon with Obama over settlements

Washington Post - 13 hours ago

In talks with US President Barack Obama's Middle East envoy, Netanyahu has asserted that his government does not have the legal authority to stop building ...

AP sources: Obama envoy to meet Israeli leader The Associated Press

Netanyahu Responds to Obama with Obfuscation, Rhetoric and More ... Huffington Post

Commentary: Obama can succeed in Mideast CNN International

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Joe Markowitz (2009-06-18 13:04:50)

Any good mediator knows that when one side makes a concession, you have to respond positively to that. You don't reject the conditions that are attached to the concession. You just deal with that as an area of disagreement that must be resolved later. Both Barack Obama and George Mitchell are skilled mediators. They will make the most of Netanyahu's agreement to the concept of a Palestinian state, and they will continue to work on the points of disagreement.

Hillary Clinton to undergo surgery on right elbow (2009-06-18 20:29)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will have to undergo surgery to repair her right elbow, that she broke on Wednesday evening while heading to the White House, the State Department said.

The surgery is scheduled for sometime next week. She canceled her public appointments for today.

President Barack Obama was one of the first well-wishers to call her late last night.

 Times Online

Clinton to Have Surgery to Repair Arm Broken in a Fall

New York Times - Mark Landler - 4 hours ago

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will have to undergo surgery to repair a fractured right elbow, caused when she slipped and fell on her way to a White House meeting on Wednesday evening, the State Department said ...

Video: Sec. Clinton to Have Surgery on Broken Elbow 

The Associated Press

[EMBED]

Doctor: Clinton Elbow Injury Complicated, Recovery Could Take Weeks FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-01-18 10:07:22)

Amiable post and this mail helped me alot in my college assignement. Gratefulness you as your information.

Barack Obama's Proclamation for Father's Day (2009-06-21 13:48)

Here is President Barack Obama's proclamation for Father's Day, 2009.

The journey of fatherhood provides unique and lasting joys. Cradling a baby in his arms, a father experiences the miracle of life and an unbreakable bond. Fathers imagine a world of possibilities awaiting their children and contemplate the privilege of helping them reach that expanse of opportunity.

As kids grow and mature, they look to their dad for a special kind of love and support. Providing these necessities can bring great happiness.

Fatherhood also brings great responsibilities. Fathers have an obligation to help rear the children they bring into the world. Children deserve this care, and families need each father's active participation.

Fathers must help teach right from wrong and instill in their kids the values that sustain them for a lifetime.

As they encounter new and challenging experiences, children need guidance and counsel. Fathers need to talk with their kids to help them through difficult times. Parents must also help their children make the right choices by serving as strong role models. Honest and hard-working fathers are an irreplaceable influence upon their children.

Communities must do more to counsel fathers. Family and friends, and faith-based and community organizations, can speak directly with men about the sacrifices and rewards of having a child. These groups can support men as they take on the great challenges of child-rearing.

Through honest and open dialogue, more men can choose to become model parents and know the wonders of fatherhood.

On Father's Day, we pay tribute to the loving and caring fathers who are strengthening their families and country.

We also honor those surrogate fathers who raise, mentor, or care for someone else's child. Thousands of young children benefit from the influence of great men, and we salute their willingness to give and continue giving.

We also express special gratitude to fathers who serve in the United States Armed Forces for the sacrifices they and their families make every day.

All of these individuals are making great contributions, and children across the country are better off for their care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 21, 2009, as Father's Day.

I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and admiration to their fathers, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

/s/ BARACK OBAMA

Barack Obama's Official Fathers Day Proclamation

Los Angeles Times - 17 hours ago

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, ...

Obama's example: Putting family first San Francisco Chronicle

Obama asks men to be better fathers than his own The Associated Press

Father-In-Chief CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Admin-Oboulo (2009-06-23 05:31:24)

The presumption of fatherhood of the husband means that in a particular situation, the husband is automatically considered like the father of the child.

The presumption of fatherhood of the husband profits to the child conceived during the wedding and to the child born during the wedding, no matter if he was conceived during or before this wedding.

Why Obama needs to tread carefully in Iran (2009-06-22 22:30)

The tensions in Iran are not really about democracy. Neither side in the conflict has proven itself anymore democratic than the other.

Both sides are equally sectarian and are both products of the Islamic revolution.

The main differences between the parties is ethnicity. Mir Hossein Mossavi is supported more by Iran's ethnic minorities, while Ahmadinejad is supported more by the ethnic Iranian majority.

The U.S. has traveled down this road before and often with very undesirable consequences.

While the U.S. is right in protesting a corrupt election, any fueling of ethnic tension leading to bloodshed and strife carries great risk.

The eventual "winner," especially if it's Ahmadinejad might be even place Iran in even a more hostile posture than before. Also, there is absolutely no guarantee that Mossavi will be more pro-Western than Ahmadinejad!

He could turn out like other former U.S. "allies" i.e. Osama bin Ladin and Saddam Hussein.



ABC News

US options limited on Iran

Duluth News Tribune - Peter P. Strzok - 15 hours ago

He is the son of an Azeri (Azerbaijani-Turkic) father; his mother was from Yazd, in southern Iran. Born in the most conservative major city in Iran, Mashed, ...

Exclusive: A Guide to Understanding the Iranian Unrest Family Security Matters

What happens next in Iran? The Young Turks

Iranian blackout Malta Independent Online

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Joe Markowitz (2009-06-23 15:01:50)

It's not about choosing sides. It's not even about which candidate becomes the president. It's all about the process. It's about whether the Iranian people have the chance to exercise basic freedoms. That is what we need to support. We don't need or want to support political candidates in somebody else's election.

Barack Obama Online (2009-06-26 14:42:44)

hopefully progress is on the tip of Obama's fingers

Obama climate change bill passes in House (2009-06-26 22:25)

President Barack Obama pushed a climate change bill that passed narrowly on the House floor.

"I'm the first one to acknowledge that the United States over the last several years has not been where we need to be," Obama said at a White House news conference after meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "Europe, in many ways over the last several years, has moved more rapidly than the United States on addressing this issue," Obama said.

"And I've been very blunt and frank with Chancellor Merkel that we are still working through creating the framework where we can help lead the international effort."

Merket has been a leader in addressing climate change in Europe.

Obama touts climate change bill

Inquirer.net - 6 hours ago

WASHINGTON—US President Barack Obama, joined by visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, touted a climate change bill being debated by Congress Friday as ...

Deaths Push Afghan War to the Fore for Germany New York Times

Economy To Dominate Obama, Merkel Discussions NPR

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Samuel (2009-06-30 12:12:39)

Do you want to get free obama apparel online. Go to <http://www.points2shop.com/index.php?ref=samuelstewart306> right now!!!

Richard (2009-06-30 18:10:28)

What's the change we really need? Find plenty of examples at: <http://obamaprayers.blogspot.com>

Joko Blog (2009-07-03 02:16:36)

Wanna know Results of Presidential Candidate and Vice Presidential Candidate of Republic Indonesia Debate, visit here <http://joko-blog.blogspot.com/2009/07/results-of-presidential-candidate-and.html>

3.7 July

Obama praises King of Pop (2009-07-03 13:16)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama responded to a question from AP reporter Jennifer Loven that the black community was unsatisfied with his response to the death of pop icon Michael Jackson.

"I grew up on his music," said Obama, who is three years younger than Jackson. "Still have all his stuff on my iPod."

"I think that his brilliance as a performer also was paired with a tragic and, in many ways, sad personal life," he said. "I'm glad to see that he is being remembered primarily for the great joy that he brought to a lot of people through his extraordinary gifts as an entertainer."

Obama said that he wasn't aware of the response among African Americans mentioned by Loven.

"I know a lot of people in the black community," he said. "I haven't heard that." White House aides have stated that Obama sent a letter of condolences to the Jackson family.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Kumari (2009-07-05 10:33:20)

I am an all heart supporter of President Obama and fully believe in his approach to making the changes that the US has been in need off for quite some time. However I think that it is also important to not forget that what makes America great, and will continue to make it great, is not only good policies, ambition, proud work ethics and sleepless nights but also inspiration, creativity, passion, tolerance and love. Certainly these are some words that can be used to describe the entertainment industry and the late Michael Jackson who is now an American icon for pop music worldwide and dance. As much as President Obama supports and stands by the American mainstream it is important, I believe, for America to take care of her heritage and those that make America proud by their legendary gifts. Surely then, there cannot be a more significant homage to an entertainer, and really humanitarian, than perhaps First Lady Michelle Obama and the First girls paying homage to a legend on Tuesday, July 7. It would only be a fitting tribute to man who gave of his best in performance on the American and world pop stage. I think it's important that America takes care of figures such as Michael Jackson, Madonna, (and even Spears) and support these figures so that future icons in the offing do not have to travel the dark depths of despair from media criticism which in turn lead them to accidental overdoses and other such "tragedies". I think, that the only tragedy here would be if we do not commemorate a legend fittingly.

K.Karand

Obama set for week-long foreign jaunt (2009-07-04 19:32)

President Barack Obama is ready to leave for a trip to Russia, among other countries, where he is expected to talk with Russian leaders, Dmitry Medvedev and Vladimir Putin, about arms control, climate change and other issues.

Prior to taking office, Russia and the U.S. appeared on a path to a new cold war with tensions heating up over a planned U.S. "defense shield" in Eastern Europe, and a Russian military intervention in Georgia. However, things appear to have cooled off with the advent of the Obama administration.

The U.S. president will also take part in a G-8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy, and will meet separately with Pope Benedict


XVI. He will also visit Ghana in his first trip to sub-Saharan Africa since coming to office.

 Telegraph.co.uk

Russia Presents Test for Obama

Washington Post - Michael A. Fletcher, Philip P. Pan - 3 hours ago

President Obama is scheduled to leave Washington tonight on a week-long trip that will help determine whether his ...

Video: Russia and NATO: no longer at loggerheads?  RT

[EMBED]

Heading to Russia, Obama Is Mindful of Its Power Equation New York Times

Tough talks with Russia await Obama on trip abroad Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama, Medvedev hold press conference (2009-07-06 13:40)

Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama appeared in a joint press conference after their meeting in Moscow today.


They announced an agreement between the United States and Russia on cooperation in Afghanistan.

The two leaders talked about the situation in Georgia in which Obama says there were differences, but that the leaders agreed that the situation should be resolved peacefully.

Russia, US Cooperation on Afghanistan Shows 180 Degree Turn

FOXNews - Eve Zibel - 33 minutes ago

A deal between the United States and Russia to increase assistance and training in Afghanistan is being hailed as a full turn-around for two nations that had once been on opposite sides during a different Afghan war.

Video: Obama and Medvedev "Reset" US-Russian Relations - Bloomberg  Bloomberg

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Economy On Back Burner On Day One Of Obama-Medvedev Summit Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2009-07-09 15:43)

President Barack Obama spoke at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy today.


He talked about tackling climate change including cutting global emissions in half and limiting global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius. Developed nations agreed to reduce emissions on absolute terms in the short term, while developing nations will take steps to reduce emissions before 2050.

 FOXNews

President Obama Delivers Remarks at G8 Summit

Washington Post - 5 hours ago

PRESIDENT OBAMA: ... the people of Italy have shown us during this stay. We are very grateful to all of you. I also want to thank the 17 other leaders who ...

Video: Obama Explains Climate Deal at G-8 Italy  EUX.TV

[EMBED]

Obama vows US will lead the way on climate change Los Angeles Times

Analysis: Obama's global reach only goes so far The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama visits historic slave depot in Ghana (2009-07-11 21:12)

President Barack Obama visited a former slave trading station in Ghana today.

He spoke at Cape Coast Castle in Ghana comparing the site to a former Nazi concentration camp he visited in Germany. "It is reminiscent of the trip I took to Buchenwald," Obama said, "because it reminds us of the capacity of human beings to commit great evil.


Obama spoke of America's commitment to Africa but said in the end that Africa's future is in the hands of Africans.

 guardian.co.uk

Obama visits former slave depot in Ghana

Los Angeles Times - Christi Parsons - 2 hours ago

President Obama speaks makes a speech at the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana. He said it reminded him of the former concentration camp he toured in Germany, "of the capacity of human beings to commit great evil.

Video: Obama on Africa's Role as Global Partner  EUX.TV

[EMBED]

Obama sees Africa's dark past at slave fortress Reuters

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's speech calls for change in Africa (2009-07-12 17:30)

Barack Obama's speech in Ghana promised help to the troubled continent of Africa but also asked Africans to be the change that they are seeking – a message similar to that he espoused on the presidential campaign trail. Obama's appearance in Ghana also had the same rock star characteristics of the election race.

"We must start from the simple premise that Africa's future is up to Africans," Obama said in a speech televised across the continent. Obama's visit to Ghana rather than his father's home country of Kenya, or other African nations, was planned to highlight the country's flourishing democracy.

Although Ghana had a troubled beginning as a nation, for more than a decade the country has enjoyed stability and economic growth. Obama's address spoke of hope for spreading democracy across Africa, and for reducing disease and poverty.

"These things can only be done if you take responsibility for your future," Obama told the Ghanaian parliament. "And it won't be easy. It will take time and effort. There will be suffering and setbacks. But I can promise you this: America will be with you every step of the way, as a partner, as a friend." Obama's father was a Kenyan goat herder and worked for the British during colonial times. His father came to the United States to study where he met and married Obama's mother, also a student, in Hawai'i.

Obama's visit to slave castle

The president brought his wife, Michelle and their daughters, Malia and Sasha to an infamous former slave trading depot on Ghana's coast. Michelle's Obama's earliest known ancestor, Jim Robinson, was born as a slave in the 1850s in South Carolina.

"Obviously, it's a moving experience, a moving moment," Obama said while visiting the site. "As painful as it is, I think that it helps to teach all of us that we have to do what we can to fight against the kinds of evils that, sadly, still exist in our world." Obama's speech stressed the need for Africa to give up the tradition of autocratic leaders and develop a more holistic approach instead: "Africa doesn't need strongmen. It needs strong institutions." Obama's call for responsibility is not new – many other Western leaders have done the same before – but this is the first African American president to make the appeal.

"I have the blood of Africa within me, and my family's own story encompasses both the tragedies and triumphs of the larger African story. Some of you know my grandfather was a cook for the British in Kenya, and though he was a respected elder in his village, his employers called him boy for much of his life," Obama said noting how Africa can emulate his own family's success. "You can do that. Yes, you can. Because in this moment, history is on the move."

Before his visit to Africa, Obama called on developed nations to raise \$20 billion over three years to help fight hunger, and to teach better food independence in the continent. Obama's speech however contained little in terms of specific help that America would offer African nations.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



AB (2009-07-30 16:23:28)

Unfortunately, I have to say I disagree with Obama's stance on Africa. For a man who claims greater literacy on African issues than his predecessors, it is sad that he is offering more of the same. <http://aglobalhistory.blogspot.com/2009/07/barack-obama-doesnt-care-about-black.html>

Sotomayor cites "fidelity of the law" (2009-07-13 18:24)

Supreme Court nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor's first day of hearings went fairly smoothly despite some comments that she might be an "activist" judge.

Sotomayor pledged herself to "fidelity to the law" and said she would follow Supreme Court precedent in making judgements.

"Throughout my 17 years on the bench, I have witnessed the human consequences of my decisions. Those decisions have been made not to serve the interests of any one litigant, but always to serve the larger interest of impartial justice," Sotomayor said. "In the past month, many senators have asked me about my judicial philosophy. It is simple: fidelity to the law."

 FOXNews

Day One of the Sotomayor hearings: a legal perspective

Los Angeles Times - Carol J. Williams - 1 hour ago

Legal analysts weigh in on how the Supreme Court nominee fared during a day of political theater, and what to expect in the next few days.

Video: Sotomayor Pledges Impartial Justice if Confirmed  The Associated Press

[EMBED]

Firefighter to Take Spotlight in Sotomayor Hearings Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Howard Dean backs Obama health care plan (2009-07-20 20:19)

Howard Dean, the former Vermont governor and Democratic National Committee chairman who ran as a presidential candidate, endorsed President Barack Obama's health care reform plan Tuesday.

Dean told a crowd of college students in Washington that a public system is the only option for addressing the nation's healthcare dilemma.

"If you ever want to save costs, it will never happen in the private sector," Dean said.

"We don't really have any health insurance in this country. What we have is a shell game like they had up on Wall Street... What we have is a system to make lots of money."

 guardian.co.uk

Dean Backs Obama Health-Care Plan

Washington Post - Philip Rucker - 3 hours ago

We cannot afford this plan; we can reform health care, and we can be responsible in what we do. Obama does understand that he can create a society totally ...

GOP Senator Steps Up War of Words With Obama Over Health Care Reform FOXNews

Obama has a lot riding on health care legislation USA Today

Obama's health care push met with pushback CNN

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama: Healthcare plan will help small businesses (2009-07-26 18:25)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama talked about his healthcare plan in his weekly address. Obama noted a study that shows small businesses pay more for health insurance than big corporations. Under the Obama plan, small businesses receive a tax credit. Low income workers will receive a subsidy to help them pay for health insurance.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama opens policy meetings with China (2009-07-27 15:49)

President Barack Obama started up policy talks with China in Washington today. The two countries will meet twice a year to discuss mutual cooperation on issues like climate change and the world economy. China owns about \$700 billion of US debt and is seen as an important player in helping bring the world economy out of recession. Obama has also called on Beijing to do more in helping to combat climate change.

[EMBED]



FOXNews

Obama Opens Policy Talks With China

New York Times - Mark Landler - 36 minutes ago

Chinese officials listened to a speech by President Obama, in which he described ties between the two countries as "important as any bilateral relationship in the world.

Video: US kicks off high-level policy talks with China  worldfocusonline

Geithner, Wang say ties key to global recovery AFP

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Lots of changes floated for Obama healthcare bill (2009-07-28 22:02)

Lot of activity swirling around the healthcare bill.

A new plan by senior House Democrats sounds interesting. They're proposing to tax insurance companies that offer high-end health insurance policies.

In the end, I think, you have to raise taxes somewhere to make sure this things stays out of trouble in the future.

The propose tax on insurance companies would target individual plans valued at more than a certain limit, likely \$25,000 or higher. Democrats hope to raise about \$180 billion over ten years and this will enable the House to lower the surtax on wealthy households as found in the current House version of the bill.

 Reuters

As deadline looms, key opponents demand changes in healthcare bill

Boston Globe - 19 minutes ago

President Obama held a town-hall-style meeting yesterday at AARP's headquarters in Washington to pitch his health-care plan. He pledged not to worsen Medicare benefits or force anyone to switch insurers.

Plan to Tax Insurers Stirs Interest in House Wall Street Journal

The centrist alternative on healthcare: Cooperatives Los Angeles Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama awards 16 with America's highest civilian honor (2009-07-30 12:28)

President Barack Obama is awarding the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to 16 people, the White House announced Thursday.

The medals will be presented at a White House ceremony on Aug. 12. Obama called the recipients "agents of change."

"Each saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way," Obama said. "Their relentless devotion to breaking down barriers and lifting up their fellow citizens sets a standard to which we all should strive." The Associated Press reports the 16 recipients as:

_Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a leading breast cancer grass-roots organization. Brinker created the organization after her sister died of breast cancer in 1980 and raises money for research and other services through events like the Race for the Cure.

_Pedro Jose Greer Jr., a doctor and assistant dean of academic affairs at Florida International University School of Medicine. He is the founder of Camillus Health Concern, which provides medical care to more than 10,000 homeless patients annually in Miami. He also is founder and medical director of the St. John Bosco Clinic, which provides medical care to poor children and adults in the city's Cuban community. His work has been recognized by several former presidents.

_Stephen Hawking, an internationally recognized physicist and mathematics professor at Cambridge University in London. The 67-year-old scientist is well known for his work on black holes. Hawking has been almost completely paralyzed for years and communicates through an electronic voice synthesizer. At age 21, he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, an incurable degenerative disorder.

_Former Republican Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, who died in May. Kemp also was secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under President George H.W. Bush and the GOP nominee for vice president in 1996. He was a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills before entering public service.

_Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., a member of the Senate for 46 years who endorsed Obama for president. Kennedy has been behind legislative efforts to improve the public schools, strengthen civil rights laws, support working people and provide health care for all. He was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer last year and has largely been absent as Congress debates Obama's plan to overhaul health care.

_Billie Jean King, the 1960s and 1970s tennis legend who became one of America's first openly gay major sports figures when she revealed her sexual orientation in 1981.

_Rev. Joseph Lowery, a leader in the civil rights movements since the early 1950s. Lowery helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott. He later co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a leading civil rights group, with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Lowery also led "Bloody Sunday" march from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama in 1965.

_Joe Medicine Crow, the last living Plains Indian war chief who fought in World War II, wearing war paint beneath his uniform. He became an acclaimed Native American historian who lectured extensively on the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

_Harvey Milk, who became the first openly gay elected official from a major U.S. city when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk encouraged lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people to live their lives openly. Milk, along with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, was shot and killed in 1978 by Dan White, a former city supervisor.

_Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice. Nominated in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, she retired in 2006.

_Sidney Poitier, the top black movie star in the 1950s and 1960s. He is the first African American to win an Academy Award for best actor, to receive an award at a top international film festival (the Venice Film Festival) and be the top grossing movie star in the U.S. Poitier began his acting career without any training or experience by auditioning at the American Negro Theatre.

_Chita Rivera, an accomplished actor, singer and dancer and winner of two Tony Awards. In 2002, Rivera became the first Hispanic recognized with a Kennedy Center Honor. She was propelled to stardom by her performance as Anita in the original Broadway premiere of "West Side Story."

_Mary Robinson, Ireland's first female president, serving from 1990-1997. She also is a former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

_Janet Davison Rowley, a doctor and distinguished professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. Rowley was the first scientist to identify chromosomal translocation as the cause of leukemia and other cancers. She was awarded the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor, in 1999.

_Desmond Tutu, the retired Anglican Archbishop emeritus and formerly a leading anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, widely regarded as the country's moral conscience. As general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, he led an effort in support of justice and racial reconciliation in his country, work that earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. Tutu also chaired the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995.

_Muhammad Yunus, a leader in global anti-poverty efforts who has pioneered the use of "micro loans" to provide credit to poor people who don't have collateral. He founded the Grameen Bank in 1983 in his

native Bangladesh to provide these low-interest loans. Yunus was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his work.

 Telegraph.co.uk

Obama to award Presidential Medal of Freedom to 16 The Associated Press

Obama to give 16 'agents of change' US Medal of Freedom AFP

Obama to Award Medals of Freedom to 16 New York Times Blogs

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



"Cash for Clunkers" a surprising green success story (2009-07-31 14:22)

One of the most effective efforts from President Barack Obama's stimulus plan has been the "cash for clunkers" program.

The program offers \$4,500 for qualifying vehicles that are traded in for more fuel-efficient vehicles. The popular program launched last week ran out of cash in less than a week although it was scheduled to last until November. The House approved an additional \$2 billion for the program after learning it had run out of money. The Senate still has not responded, but the White House all deals made over this weekend are valid.

"If you were planning on going to buy a car this weekend, using this program, this program continues to run," said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

 ABC News

Dealers Welcome Clunker Traffic, Even if It's No Cure-All

New York Times - Yana Paskova, Malcolm Gay - 2 hours ago

Nick Clites, a manager at DCH Honda in Paramus, NJ, walks past several so-called clunker vehicles. By BILL VLASIC
DETROIT - It had been a dismal July in dealer showrooms - as bad as every month so far this year.

Video: Government jump starts Clunkers program  WIVB

[EMBED]

New Cash Steered to Clunkers Wall Street Journal

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



3.8 August

Paul McCartney dedicates "Michelle" to First Lady (2009-08-02 21:30)

First there was Obama Girl, now seemingly Obama Boy.

In an offering to the president's better half Michelle Obama, pop star Paul McCartney dedicated his love song, "Michelle," to the first lady at a concert in Washington on Saturday.

According to the New York Daily News, Ms. Obama was on vacation at Camp David and not in the audience.

The 67-year-old former member of the Beatles may be planning a farewell tour next year after 50 years of performing.

 Access Hollywood

Paul McCartney dedicates love song 'Michelle' to Michelle Obama ...

New York Daily News - Tracy Connor - 12 hours ago

Paul McCartney dedicated one of his hit songs to First Lady Michelle Obama at his concert on Saturday night. The President might want to ...

Paul McCartney plays "Michelle" for Ms. Obama TheCelebrityCafe.com

Sir Paul McCartney Dedicates Song to Michelle Obama Entertainment To

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



ChanCe (2009-08-03 01:59:19)

Me too I dedicated this song for Mr President's Birthday:

<http://www.by-chance.us>

ChanCe

Jo (2009-08-04 11:08:56)

its obama's Birthday

Obama gets "gift" on birthday (2009-08-04 12:11)

President Barack Obama celebrates his 48th birthday today and he received a gift of sorts in news of the release of two American journalists held in North Korea.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il granted the two journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, a "special pardon" on the day of his meeting with former President Bill Clinton, who is making an unannounced private visit to the country.

North Korea pardons US reporters

BBC News - 47 minutes ago

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has issued a special pardon to two detained US journalists, the country's state news agency reports.

Video: Clinton Meets With NKorean Leader Kim Jong Il 

The Associated Press

[EMBED]

Bill Clinton v Kim Jong-Il: A tale of the tape guardian.co.uk

[EMBED]

Obama celebrates with veteran journalist Helen Thomas, who shares the same birthday as the president.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-08-05 17:28:55)
flag@whitehouse.gov

Sonia Sotomayor confirmed as Supreme Court Justice (2009-08-06 20:12)

Judge Sonia Sotomayor is set to become the nation's first person of Hispanic descent to sit as a Supreme Court justice when she takes the oath on Aug. 8, 2009.

Sotomayor, President Barack Obama's first pick for the nation's highest court, will be only the third woman to serve as a Supreme Court justice.

The "Wise Latina" was confirmed today by the Senate in a 68-31 vote. Nine of the Senate's 40 Republicans voted for Sotomayor.



Times Online

For Latinos, Confirmation Is an Emotional Moment

Washington Post - 21 minutes ago

By NC Aizenman At a "vote watch" party held by Latino activists at a hotel bar a few blocks from the Capitol, news of the final Senate tally clinching Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to the Supreme Court set off whoops and cheers, followed by sustained ...

Video: Latinas celebrate Sotomayor vote  KRQE.com

Sotomayor Faces Heavy Workload of Complex Cases New York Times

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama goes grassroots on health care reform (2009-08-10 13:39)

President Barack Obama's grassroots network is working full steam during the congressional break pushing for a health reform bill.

There have been a lot of disruptions at town hall meetings held to debate health care reform drawing accusations from both sides.

Most analysts believe a reform package will pass, but there is speculation over how the final bill will look. Much of

the fighting now is over a public option that would allow provide affordable insurance to those who are uninsured or underinsured now.

Obama's plan is backed by such groups as the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association.

 Reuters

It's all about me: Questions about Obama's health care reform plan

Baltimore Sun - 7 hours ago

Here's a quick glance at Obama's answers to the most common inquiries voiced by folks just like you: What if I already have health insurance and am ...

Disruptions drown out debate at health care meetings CNN

Obama network still trying to mobilize effectively for health plan Chicago Tribune

Progressive Religious Groups Line Up Behind Obama On Health Care NPR

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Igor (2009-08-10 15:26:56)

Obama qualifications to reform health care:

No birth certificate

Can not stop smoking

Difficulty telling the truth.

Narcissistic personality disorder.

Therefore, I Igor produce Obama Birth Certificate at www.igormarxo.org

Compare Obama Care vs Igor Care at [Obama vs Igor Care](#)

Did Obama make a backroom deal with big pharma? (2009-08-11 17:09)

[EMBED] That's the rumor swirling around about now after the news that big pharma now supports Obamacare and to the tune of a \$150 million ad campaign.

There is all kind of speculation out there including the possibility that the president agreed not to bargain down drug costs for seniors on Medicare, or that he promised not to allow competing companies from Canada to sell medicine here – a move that would result in lower drug costs.

However, so far it's all been speculation and no deal with pharma is binding on the House and Senate. So we will possibly will have to wait until Congress comes back into session to see if Obama reveals anything new.

Whatever the case, the drug companies are now strongly backing the Obama plan, something that is causing wonderment in some circles.

 Washington Post

White House & Big Pharma: What's the Deal?

CBS News - Sharyl Attkisson - Aug 10, 2009

Sources say negotiations involving the White House and the pharmaceutical industry shifted to fast-forward in mid-June. President Obama had just taken a ...

More On That White House Drug Deal Mother Jones

The Drugmakers: Supping with the Devil American Spectator

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



TBX (2009-08-13 02:18:29)

Die Debatte um die Gesundheitsreform

In unserem Land wird eine äußerst hitzige Debatte geführt. Den einen geht die Gesundheitsreform nicht weit genug, und andere fragen sich wütend, warum überhaupt über das bestehende Gesundheitswesen diskutiert werden muss.

Die New York Times schrieb jüngst, dass die Auseinandersetzungen um die Gesundheitsreform an eine Wahlkampfkampagne zur Präsidentschaft erinnern, bei der über das Internet Unterstützer mobilisiert und kostspielige Werbekampagnen in die Wege geleitet werden.

Die Debatte um die Gesundheitsreform wird äußerst emotional geführt. So sind die stärksten Befürworter einer Reform...

<http://blog.taipan-online.de/552/2009/die-debatte-um-die-gesundheitsreform/>

Obama honors 16 with Medal of Freedom (2009-08-12 14:14)

President Barack Obama on Wednesday awarded the nation's highest civilian honor to 16 people whose lifetime accomplishments made them "agents of change"

"What unites them is a belief ... that our lives are what we make of them, that no barriers of race, gender or physical infirmity can restrain the human spirit, and that the truest test of a person's life is what we do for one another," Obama said during a White House ceremony in the East Room.

"The recipients of the Medal of Freedom did not set out to win this or any other award. They did not set out in pursuit of glory or fame or riches," Obama said. "Rather they set out, guided by passion, committed to hard work, aided by persistence, often with few advantages but the gifts, grace and good name God gave them." This is the first time during his presidency that Obama has awarded such medals.



Sky News

Obama: Medal of Freedom winners are 'agents of change'

USA Today

Today's recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom are an honor roll of civil rights. They range from Sidney Poitier, the first black man to win an Oscar; to Billie Jean Moffitt King, a pioneer in equal rights for women and gays as well as a ...

Obama presents 16 with Presidential Medal of Freedom CNN

Obama honors activists, actors, athletes, others The Associated Press

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama talks with the "enemy" – Big Pharma (2009-08-13 18:58)

There is definitely a group of people who will never quite accept the idea that President Barack Obama's administration could have reached a deal with big pharma.

Today a memo was leaked that supported recent claims about this secret deal, but both the administration and the pharmaceutical companies denied the memo accurately conveyed the nature of the agreement. Both sides admit that some understanding was reached though.

Now, that alone might be too much for the more conspiratorial minded to handle. Big pharma is evil, and you cannot make a pact with the devil, so the thinking goes. Realistically though, the president has to deal with both sides on this issue.

We will see soon enough though, what the two sides actually did agree upon. When Congress meets again, the White House will have to play its hand.

 FOXNews

Obama to Take On Health-Care Critics

Washington Post - Anne E. Kornblut

(By Jim Cole – Associated Press) By Anne E. Kornblut President Obama is embarking on a final public relations push on health care Friday before heading off ...

Big ad buy for Obama's health care program USA Today

AARP Corrects False Obama Claim FOXNews

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama holds town hall meeting in Montana (2009-08-14 14:14)

President Barack Obama took to the road personally campaigning for his health reform plan.

Today, Obama appeared at a town hall meeting in Montana. The discussions were reported as civil and courteous. There had been some fear that the meeting could suffer disruptions as seen in some of the congressional town hall meetings.

The town hall meeting has become a prominent feature of the Obama administration.

 Washington Post

Obama in Montana, live

USA Today - 2 hours ago

President Obama got a few pointed questions at his Montana town hall, but nothing like the shouting matches we have seen elsewhere.

Good manners in Obama's Montana audience The Associated Press

Obama Heads to Montana for Healthcare Town Hall U.S. News & World Report

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



KCM0186 (2009-08-15 19:07:43)

Town hall meetings are a great idea and the outbursts in previos ones are barbaric... If one has a problem, one should logically and civilly convey it.

KCM0186 (2009-08-15 19:10:04)

I think town hall meetings are great to get people on board with certain agendas. The way people have reacted at other meetings is barbaric; if one has a problem, convey it logically and in a civil manner.

Obamas visit Grand Canyon (2009-08-16 20:30)

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama took a day off during his campaign swing through western states, taking time to visit the Grand Canyon.

Yesterday, the Obama family went to Yellowstone National Park and visited Old Faithful.

This evening, Obama will return to Phoenix to speak before the VFW National Convention. The president has been promoting his health care reform plan during his trip.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama sets fast pace for his first year (2009-08-17 19:03)

Barack Obama may be one of the hardest working presidents to come along in a while.

He has yet to appear golfing, jogging, or fishing like many of his predecessors. He's on a working vacation now, and earlier he took Michelle for a night on the town in New York City.

However, he has gotten an awful lot done in his first six months in office. If he does manage to pass a health reform bill before the end of his first year, he will have accomplished something that others have been working on for decades.

Obama spoke today in Phoenix where another protester showed up openly displaying a weapon – this time an assault rifle. A Secret Service spokesperson said the man was in a designated viewing area and was not allowed near the president.



President Obama's supporters and protesters gather outside the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix on Aug. 17, 2009, where Obama is scheduled to speak at the VFA National Convention. (AP Photo/Matt York)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



John DeFlumeri Jr (2009-08-18 14:12:03)

I just hope the President doesn't get burned out from the workload! He is trying to do Everything right.
But everything means Every Thing!

John DeFlumeri Jr

John DeFlumeri Jr (2009-08-18 14:16:59)

I hope the President doesn't get burned out!
He's trying to do the right thing.

John DeFlumeri Jr

Obama to clergy: health reform is "moral obligation" (2009-08-19 21:46)

President Barack Obama on Wednesday called on religious leaders to back his health care reform plan.

"I know there's been a lot of misinformation in this debate, and there are some folks out there who are frankly bearing false witness," Obama told a group of supportive religious leaders during a conference call.

Hope for a bipartisan bill is fading although Obama still wants an all-out effort in persuading Republicans to come aboard. According to Washington insiders though, Democrats are willing to push ahead even without bipartisan support.

Obama fired back at conservative critics who have characterized his health reform plan as "socialism."

"These struggles always boil down to a contest between hope and fear," he said. "That was true in the debate over Social Security, when F.D.R. was accused of being a socialist. That was true when J.F.K. and Lyndon Johnson tried to pass Medicare. And it's true in this debate today."

 Telegraph.co.uk

Obama Calls Health Plan a 'Moral Obligation'

New York Times - Jeff Zeleny, Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON - President Obama sought Wednesday to reframe the health care debate as "a core ethical and moral obligation," imploring a coalition of religious leaders to help promote the plan to lower costs and expand ...

Video: New Health Care Strategy  CBS

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats splitting health care bill? (2009-08-20 17:24)

According to the Wall Street Journal, Democrats may be shifting their strategy on health reform by splitting the plan into two bills.

One bill would include the public option and would be passed by Democrats alone without Republican support. They could use technicality in procedure known as reconciliation to prevent any Republican filibuster of the bill in the

Senate.

The second part of the bill would contain elements of the original bill that would prevent insurers from blocking people with pre-existing health conditions, or refusing to renew policies due to such conditions.

In a radio interview with Michael Smerconish today, Obama told a caller: "I guarantee you we are going to get health care reform done." Senate leader Harry Reid said yesterday that "we are determined to get something done this year by any legislative means necessary."

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obamas head for Martha's Vineyard along northeast coast (2009-08-21 20:43)

President Barack Obama left the White House today to begin a nine-day vacation at Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. The presidential dog Bo will be going along on the trip also.

A local brewery has whipped up a batch of 'Ale to the Chief,' and a Mexican restaurant will be serving an Martha's Vineyard

'Obamarita.' The Farmer's Market will be selling a 'Beefy Bobama biscuit' and the bakery said they would try to send a gift of the biscuits to Bo.

With Smiles, Obama Leaves Capital Behind

New York Times - Jeff Zeleny

WASHINGTON - President Obama strode across the South Lawn of the White House shortly after lunchtime on Friday, climbed the steps to Marine One and officially opened his nine-day August vacation.

Video: Martha's Vineyard Excited for Obama Vacation 

The Associated Press

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Martha's Vineyard and African Americans (2009-08-22 17:49)

[EMBED]

Martha's Vineyard, where the first family is on vacation has a long history with African Americans. The movie "A Place of our Own" (2004) was based on the Martha's Vineyard resort of Oak Bluffs, which catered to African American visitors. When President Barack Obama was a senator, the family would take vacations at Oak Bluffs, however they will be staying a special resort as first family.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obamas arrive in Mass (2009-08-23 17:48)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama arrived in Massachusetts today with his wife Michelle and daughters Malia, 11, and Sasha, 8, and family dog Bo. The family was headed for Marthas's Vineyard for a week-long vacation. Alos on board and accompanying the Obamas on their vacation was the president's sister, Maya together with her family, and senior adviser and old-time Obama friend Valerie Jarrett.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Bailout Plan (2009-08-25 18:34:55)

Unwinding from stress and problem, i think its deserved for Obama's family

Geraldo Menezes (2009-09-03 08:33:31)

President obama my name and geraldo
I'm from Brazil I know you lived when
Hawaii liked to practice handsurf
has a factory surfboards handsurf of my
family would like to have a board
of handsurf for senho
most do not know how to send
and my gift to a person who likes
the practice of handsurf thank

Geraldo Menezes (2009-09-03 08:43:30)

President obama visit my blog
her are some photos of surfboards
of handsurf would appreciate if you
arises, you comment
I send you a board of handsurf
the Chi Brazil for you
'd like to know how can I do to send
thanks

Obama mourns Sen. Ted Kennedy (2009-08-26 16:34)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama speaks about the late Sen. Edward Kennedy who died last night due to brain cancer. Obama characterized "Ted" Kennedy as the "greatest senator of our times." He noted that Kennedy "engendered respect" from politicians on both sides of the aisle.

"For his family, he was a guardian. For America, he was a defender of a dream," Obama said.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama eulogizes Ted Kennedy (2009-08-29 18:30)

President Barack Obama gave a moving eulogy for the late Sen. Ted Kennedy at today's funeral mass in Boston, Massachusetts.

Obama again called Kennedy the 'greatest senator of our times," but said that the tears shed for the senator were more for his personal qualities rather than his legislation.

Others at the mass also gave moving eulogies including his son's Teddy Jr. and Patrick. Kennedy was laid to rest as the sun set at Arlington National Cemetery near his brothers, John and Bobby.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

Sen. Ted Kennedy's sons, Ted Kennedy Jr. and Patrick Kennedy, speak about their memories of their father.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Democrats invoke Kennedy in health care push (2009-08-30 12:31)

The late Sen. Ted Kennedy was as strong a supporter of universal health care as there was in Congress. In a letter to Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Kennedy implicitly made known his dying wish was to pass health reform. He asked the governor to appoint someone temporarily in his place to take part in the voting for Obama's health bill.

Democratic groups, politicians and activists have been using rallies, email, social networking sites and everything else available to get this message across – to honor Kennedy by passing health reform.

Kennedy's niece, Maria Shriver says her uncle's death may provide the impetus needed to push health reform through Congress. Expect Kennedy's name to be invoked quite often when Congress resumes session in September.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Blake (2009-08-31 18:29:53)

I used your post in my blog at "I voted Obama in 2008" <http://votingmccain08.blogspot.com>. I gave you credit as the source with a link back to your blog. I have not always been a barack supporter, but I made a last minute decision before I went to vote. And I have now decided to support him in my blog. I would like to join your blogroll if you don't mind.

Public option lives on (2009-08-31 21:46)

I've been reading for several months now how the public option was toast, roadkill, dead in the water, etc. Yet, in reality, the public option hasn't really gone anywhere.

Health care reform really will not mean anything without a public option or something rather identical. You need something that gives the uninsured an affordable or free option and also offers something for people who are underinsured.

There are two of the big health care problems. The uninsured drive up rates by using emergency rooms for their health needs. These emergency room costs are passed on to all consumers. Underinsured folk are now the leading statistic among people declaring bankruptcy. Their medical costs are driving them into insolvency. The number of underinsured people has been rising at an alarming rate. As they go down financially, they help drag the general economy down with them.

A public option could also help bring down overall medical costs just by providing more competition. Currently, health care costs are threatening to shut down retirement plans including the largest plan of them all - Social Security and Medicare.

Without a public option, we're not likely to see any major change in the economic situation soon. There's too much tied into the health care system. There's at least as much tied into the health care system as was linked to the real estate market, and we saw what happened when that sector collapsed.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



3.9 September

Obama to take greater role, address Congress (2009-09-02 20:09)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama will address Congress on the subject of health reform on Sept. 9.

Obama's strategy was to let Congress come up with a plan on their own, not wishing to repeat the mistakes of the Clinton administration, which attempted to push a plan through Congress. However, many health reform supporters are unclear as to exactly what Obama wants and they want him to take more of the lead on crafting a bill.

Congress resumes session next week and is expected to immediately take up the health reform debate.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Blake (2009-09-04 14:46:12)

I think Obama is playing it very smart by leaving it up to congress. He has been doing very well considering his lack of

experience.

-Blake

<http://ivotedobamain2008.blogspot.com>

prof.Moses Isaac ODHIAMBO/linkedcom (2009-09-07 11:53:17)

OBAMA PRESIDENCY pledges in a moment rich with practical promise being realized stepwisely to use American strength of Protocol DIPLOMACY as a source of good HEALTH-CARE governance policy. As President Theodore Roosevelt once said and held the ideal that Government should be the greater arbiter of the conflicting economic forces in the American nation,especially before capital,medicare and labour, guaranteeing justice to each and dispensing favours to use.

The HEALTH-CARE for all MUST be voted in the CONGRESS to take care of Colorectal cancer which is the third most common cancer in the U.S. The American Cancer Society estimates approximately 146,970 new cases will be diagnosed in 2009, along with 49,920 deaths About 75 % of cases develop after age 45. In most cases, the cancer arises from a polyp, an abnormal mass of tissue that develops on the inside wall of the colon or rectum.

President OBAMA s Great Society Program on HEALTH-CARE in this fall in CONGRESS should augment or amend rapidly to enact recommendations so that the millions of elderly people find succour through his governance policy as was in the 1965 JOHNSON MEDICARE era amendments to the social security ACT. Prevention of COLON CANCER should be medicare relief for the US people or the country in terms of micro-and macro-economic policy.

OBAMA is steering the USA more actively into WORLD of LISTENING and DIALOGUING witful WISDOM of good governance politics of succinct macro-economic policy of our time.

Roosevelt used to like to quote favourable proverb „Speak softly and carry on big stick

„ - May be a rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty red sea. BUT as for OBAMA HE SPEAKS WORDS OF WISDOM SO ARTICULATELY, SO ELOQUENTLY that even if you were born dumb and delf the wind of instinct of CHANGE just delivers it to your brain cells to understand.

As for President OBAMA this is the time to be aware of strategic HEALTH-CARE need for preventing COLON CANCER from taking root in the first place as many people could be faced with a whole host of problems 1)roundless turns of tests and medical procedures 2) surgery (even possible removal of your colon, requiring a permanent colostomy bag to collect fecal waste) 3).Chemotherapy or radiation therapy, with side effects like fatigue, nausea, vomiting, hair loss, pain, mouth sores, and infection 4).An inability to work or enjoy your favorite activities

The HEATH-CARE REFORM BILL should be aspired to make government competent, compassionate and responsive to the American people. Just like when Roosevelt ensured the crucial bill to congress for the construction of Panama canal many of the CONSERVATIVES thought it was Waste of government FUNDING never thought institutively that it was a strategic need for shortcut between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.

Let us give HEATH-CARE our VOTE in the CONGRESS.Let us restore the peoples treasured WEALTH WITHIN than throw it to the yankees in the hot deserts abroad.

-PROF. MOSES ISAAC ODHIAMBO(SIAYA)

tamas (2009-09-08 14:09:54)

What do you think about Obama's lack of leadership in either domestic or global economic issues? It seems that the health care struggles underline his inability to push through any policy. This is reminiscent of the tactics that he used to approach the global crisis. Everything is in his favour and he wastes his brill opportunities.

Obama to appear on GMA before address (2009-09-04 21:01)

President Barack Obama will appear on Good Morning America in an interview with Robin Roberts on Wednesday, the day he gives an address on health reform before Congress.

Roberts will reportedly talk to Obama mainly on the subject of education. Roberts was the first to interview Obama after he became president.

In related news, Fox still hasn't confirmed that it will broadcast Obama's address. ABC, CBS and NBC will all be tele-

vising the prime time event. Fox also failed to air Obama's last prime time address in July.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Van Jones resigns (2009-09-05 20:04)

The Obama administration suffered a big blow today when green jobs czar Van Jones resigned today under increasing pressure from Republicans.

Jones was attacked by conservatives for statements he made against Republicans and for signing a petition in 2004 that questioned whether George W. Bush allowed 9-11 to occur to help start a war in the Middle East.

"I have been inundated with calls – from across the political spectrum – urging me to 'stay and fight.' But I came here to fight for others, not for myself. I cannot in good conscience ask my colleagues to expend precious time and energy defending or explaining my past. We need all hands on deck, fighting for the future," Jones said in a statement announcing his resignation.



MiamiHerald.com

Obama Aide Van Jones Resigns After GOP Attacks NBC Washington

Van Jones Resigns As White House Advisor CBS News

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Thomas Hürlimann (2009-09-13 12:20:03)

People of the US, give Obama your support! <http://inallconscience.wordpress.com>

Obama addresses students at start of school year (2009-09-08 12:26)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama helped kick off the school year with a message to students across the nation. The broadcast message had caused controversy among some conservatives who claimed the president was trying to politically influence young minds. Obama spoke to a student audience at a high school gymnasium in a Washington suburb.

Obama urged kids to stay in school and to take their studies very seriously.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-09-22 06:18:34)

obama you should stop israel to war with palestine but i think you are 2nd jorge bush not ibrahim lincoln bcoz ibrahim sir never tolerate bad thing like you

Democrats rally behind Obama (2009-09-10 19:36)

President Barack Obama's address to Congress last night on health care appears to have unified most of the Democratic Party behind him, and has really ignited his grassroots base.

The White House today also released a letter to the president by the late Sen. Ted Kennedy just shortly before his death on Aug. 25. This is firing up Obama supporters even more. Kennedy came out strongly for Obama during the election campaign and had been one of his strongest supporters during his first year as president. The text of the letter is appended below:



(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, File)

Dear Mr President,

I wanted to write a few final words to you to express my gratitude for your repeated personal kindnesses to me – and one last time, to salute your leadership in giving our country back its future and its truth.

On a personal level, you and Michelle reached out to Vicki, to our family and me in so many different ways. You helped to make these difficult months a happy time in my life.

You also made it a time of hope for me and for our country.

When I thought of all the years, all the battles, and all the memories of my long public life, I felt confident in these closing days that while I will not be there when it happens, you will be the president who at long last signs into law the health care reform that is the great unfinished business of our society. For me, this cause stretched across decades; it has been disappointed, but never finally defeated. It was the cause of my life. And in the past year, the prospect of victory sustained me – and the work of achieving it summoned my energy and determination.

There will be struggles – there always have been – and they are already under way again. But as we moved forward in these months, I learned that you will not yield to calls to retreat – that you will stay with the cause until it is won. I saw your conviction that the time is now and witnessed your unwavering commitment and understanding that health care is a decisive issue for our future prosperity. But you have also reminded all of us that it concerns more than material things; that what we face is above all a moral issue; that at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.

And so because of your vision and resolve, I came to believe that soon, very soon, affordable health coverage will be available to all, in an America where the state of a family's health will never again depend on the amount of a family's wealth. And while I will not see the victory, I was able to look forward and know that we will – yes, we will – fulfil the promise of health care in America as a right and not a privilege.

In closing, let me say again how proud I was to be part of your campaign – and proud as well to play a part in the early months of a new era of high purpose and achievement. I entered public life with a young president who inspired a generation and the world. It gives me great hope that as I leave, another young president inspires another generation and once more on America's behalf inspires the entire world.

So, I wrote this to thank you one last time as a friend – and to stand with you one last time for change and the America we can become.

At the Denver Convention where you were nominated, I said the dream lives on.

And I finished this letter with unshakable faith that the dream will be fulfilled for this generation, and preserved and enlarged for generations to come.

With deep respect and abiding affection,

(Ted)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



seoexpert (2009-09-13 02:46:57)

Barack Obama the first African American to hold the office.He is a Genius man..He has decision power he the best president :)

Wealthy Perspective (2009-09-13 03:41:04)

I hope this isn't too off topic but did you hear Obama's suggestion to kids about social networks, like facebook, and how they should be careful what they put out for the world to see forever!

Wise words indeed!

Obama notes rise in number of healthcare uninsured (2009-09-13 18:01)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama mentioned Census figures and other surveys that the number of uninsured has swelled by 6 million people over the last 12 months. The number of adults who receive workplace insurance has also dropped. He also mentioned that having insurance is not very ensuring any more, since you can be dropped at any time if you're considered too much of a cost-risk.

Obama said that if a healthcare package is passed, he would "own" it and accept responsibility if medical costs did not come under control, or the problem of the uninsured was not solved. He said he was open to managing medical malpractice suits, a key Republican issue, but indications are that he is not that receptive to the idea.

The president said that we are not the first generation to take up the issue of healthcare reform, but he hopes that we will be the last.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama explains missile defense decision (2009-09-16 19:40)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama explains why he canceled the missile shield plan for eastern Europe.

The missile shield was supposedly to protect Poland and neighboring countries from Iranian missiles, but it was causing a lot of friction with Russia.

There will still be a defense system against the unlikely possibility that Iran should launch a ballistic missile at Europe. This system will be more based on sea using current interceptors to shoot down short range missiles.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



rob fletcher (2009-09-19 13:37:06)

I do guess they want us bury alive? Or, what??? We need all the protection we can get due to the hate they have for us and our "Freedom"!!! Help!!!

Obama hits Sunday morning talk shows (2009-09-20 17:57)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama appeared in five morning talk shows on Sunday in an unprecedented and all-out effort to push his healthcare reform package.

Personally I think that there should be some taxes raised on the wealthy and the medical industry to cover a future reform program. Just look at what happened to the Social Security Sytem. But the president continues to insist on a program that will survive by simply saving costs on the current system.

Things always look possible on paper, but its better to have something flexible, like a tax rate, that will be there if things don't turn out as intended.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Barack Obama addresses UN General Assembly (2009-09-23 16:53)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama spoke before the United Nations General Assembly today saying that he was ready for a new relationship between nations.

Obama outlined his principles for this new relationship:

1. Disarmament and non-proliferation.
2. Peace and security.
3. Preservation of our planet.
4. World economy that offers opportunity for everybody.

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi spoke for about an hour on various subjects and also praised Obama, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called a renewal of the spirit of unity between nations – a spirit in which the UN was created.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-09-30 17:38:11)

This is proof that the New World Order is here. Why does America keep living blindly. It is like the people have been hypnotized into believing what our government says. Why? We don't need to be quite about this. A one world government would destroy everything we hold dear to our hearts. Our freedom would be no more. Please America wake up and pay attention to what is actually happening in our communities and our country and don't let some foreign policy steam roll the American dream.

Tweet you senators to pass healthcare reform now! (2009-09-26 16:48)

To help President Obama push through healthcare reform, you can send a tweet message to your senators from [barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com) by simply entering in your zip code:

<http://www.barackobama.com/twitter/tweetyoursenator/>

In this message you can voice your support for timely passage of a reform bill.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



disability insurance (2009-10-03 18:33:31)

Hello. I must say that I really appreciate that the president faces the critical health insurance situation. There is still more than 15 % of the American population with no insurance coverage. Besides that it is also extremely costly!

Good luck,

Lorne

Senate bill proposes 20 percent cut in greenhouse emissions (2009-09-29 13:53)

The Senate looks ready to pass a climate bill with deeper cuts than those proposed in the House version. The new energy and climate legislation will seek a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Co-sponsors Sen. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) will announce the bill on Wednesday according to congressional sources. The proposal comes after countries like Japan and China, at the G-20 conference, suggested they were willing to make deep cuts of their own .

Reduction of greenhouse emissions is not necessarily a negative for the economy as many suggest. Indeed, so long as an equally vigorous effort is directed at developing cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, the shift can be economically beneficial instead.

One controversial feature of the Senate bill is the inclusion of incentives for new nuclear power plant building. This concession will not likely please a good portion of green energy activists who believe that nuclear power, while not a carbon-emitting technology, is still not "clean" or sustainable.

A lot of wheeling and dealing is expected to occur during the negotiations to reconcile the two versions.

Many environmentalists expressed satisfaction with the Senate proposal ahead of climate change talks scheduled two months from now in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jack (2009-09-30 18:16:38)

Hi Paul, I was wondering if you would be willing to add my website to your blogroll in exchange for my doing likewise. My website is a compilation of the favorite books of the most famous people in the world, including Barack Obama. Please let me know. Thank you. favaholic.com

chris (2009-10-01 18:47:07)

It sounds like something we need right now, jobs and clean energy.

3.10 October

Obama to lobby for Chicago's Olympic bid (2009-10-01 19:01)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama will make a pitch in support of Chicago's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Today, First Lady Michelle Obama and TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey lobbied for Chicago, which is competing with Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

Obama will travel to Copenhagen, Denmark to woo the 101 Olympic delegates that will choose the 2016 host city.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2010-03-03 21:04:52)

Hello. And Bye.

Obama celebrate 17th anniverary (2009-10-03 20:31)

President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, celebrated their 17th anniversary at a dinner in Washington on Saturday night.

The first couple ate at the Blue Duck Tavern in Washington's West End.

The Obamas married at the Trinity Church of Christ in Chicago on Oct. 3, 1992.

X

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, walk to the Blueduck Tavern, in West End area of Washington, Saturday, Oct 3, 2009. The first couple is celebrating their seventeenth wedding anniversary Saturday. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)



The Obamas on their wedding day.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Becky Grant (2009-10-04 08:43:30)

Aww, congrats to the both of them! It's so amazing to see those two on tv. I hope someday I'm as happy as they look.

Obama to meet with Congress on Afghan war (2009-10-06 21:20)

[EMBED]

One of President Barack Obama's most difficult problems is the war in Afghanistan. During the campaign, Obama pledged to wind down efforts in Iraq and focus more on combating terrorism in Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan though is not popular with the people or many in his own party, and many believe the war has no clear objectives or end game strategy.

America has been fighting in Afghanistan for eight years with no one able to say when troops will be able to leave the country. As in Iraq, the situation in Afghanistan seems to be one in which whatever "stability" exists in the country appears dependent on a large scale presence of U.S. troops.

There are many who believe that regardless of whether the U.S. pulls out now or decades from now, there will still be a violent struggle for power in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Torgny (2009-10-07 23:36:36)

Although I am a great supporter of Barack Obama, I think he is wrong on this one. The important war is to win the hearts and

minds of the Afghan people. But air-raids where many civilians have been killed, and the many years of torture earlier have put many people of Afghanistan against USA.

Wealthy Perspective (2009-10-09 17:12:01)

Congrats President Obama on the Nobel Peace Prize.

Obama bags Nobel Peace Prize (2009-10-09 18:43)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in a decision that surprised many including the president himself. Obama accepted the award despite the calls of many that he should turn down the prize. "I will accept this award as a call to action," he said.

Some have called the prize an award for "good intentions," but I think that it also has a lot to do with his moves on a nuclear-free world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Papa Ross (2009-10-09 23:08:47)

Surprised indeed. www.addictedtologic.com

Mira Sound Germany (2009-10-10 02:19:23)

Hello,

a musical response to this: Michel Montecrossa dedicates his song and video 'True Politics #2' to President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize Award.

Video-Link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=129rB13N13g

Michel Montecrossa (www.MichelMontecrossa.com) is the German-American artist who accompanied the election campaign of the president and dedicated a song to Barack Obama ('New President') when he was "only" a candidate.

Torgny (2009-10-11 04:39:44)

If we read what the Nobel Committee says it is obvious that it is not only about good intentions. It is about the extraordinary changes that Obama has already accomplished this year, creating a new atmosphere in the world by the spirit of cooperation, negotiations, the disarmament of nuclear weapons. They want to support what is already accomplished, so that this new politic can continue and transform the world.

Joe Markowitz (2009-10-12 10:05:02)

It appears that the people who are criticizing this award are mostly people who just don't really believe in peace, other than perhaps the kind of peace that comes from defeating one's adversaries.

<http://www.hopeandchange.net/2009/10/more-peace-prize-reaction.html>

I know future (2009-10-12 15:25:14)

Dear President Obama :

I'am Chenjian. I always pay attention to your action for I respect you since you successfully became the president of the USA. No matter the final result, I know you are a nice person, and that's nothing to suspect. I am also a nice Chinese young man. China lay emphasis on "family" concept! The corn of family is love. Because of love, people gather together. Because no love, people separate themselves from original whole family.

As a Chinese youth, I respectfully invite you to visit China. If you add this arrangement, then the rates and affection of you and your party will increase in the world. That's good news.

The another important thing is that I will suggest you visit a famous Chinese man YunFeng. He is the most unique person in the world. Chinese people are spreading YunFeng's wide love to the world. He inherited the whole traditional condition of China. And we also are building the big family in the world. Of course, YunFeng is circle's center.

There are three reasons that I suggest you visit him.

Senate committee approves healthcare reform bill (2009-10-13 16:44)

[EMBED]

The Senate Finance Committee passed its version of the healthcare reform bill that was widely opposed by Republicans despite not even containing the contentious public option found in all other versions of the bill passed by both the House and Senate. Sen. Olympia Snowe, a Republican, voted for the bill.

The Senate will not work to merge all versions of the bill – a process that could be done in a few days. However, it is not certain that a plan that includes a public option will avoid a filibuster by opponents. It takes a vote of at least 60 senators to overturn a filibuster.

Even if President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies cannot beat a filibuster they have another strategy that they can pull out as a last resort. A parliamentary move allows them to avoid a filibuster and pass a bill with only 51 votes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-10-20 05:57:33)

Comments must be approved by the blog author. (Thanks for the laugh)

The words change and hope embrace faith. Something the majority of people in the country wanted while Bush was in power. People get blinded by faith. The stimulus plan did what it was set out to accomplish, put money back into the pockets of people who helped bring this country into the mess it's currently in.

Quite hypocritical of a person to claim to vow of transparency to the world who has YET to divulge anything from his past. Who criticizes and demeans the country he is the leader of, for what purpose? Cap and trade will destroy the already struggling people in this country. He inacted congressional marshal law to aggressively get the stimulus passed without giving enough time to read through all these hidden provisions. It's a sick game. One that people are tired of watching unfold before their eyes.

Every politician is a liar. Do you really think that the true players in the game are those you see everyday?

JFK spoke about these things weeks before this death.

Men to watch as they speak the whole world bends to what they have spoken.

Henry Kissinger, Alan Greenspan, and Zbigniew Brzezinski. Puppets are the mouthpieces.

note that I do not type in terms of right/left/independent because it's a form of division amongst the people

Yes, Obama has time for climate change (2009-10-16 20:00)

The ABC News article Climate Concerns: Is President Obama's Plate Too Full? asks a question that seems a little too easy to answer from my perspective. Not to bash on author Huma Khan as this question has been popping up quite a bit in the media lately.

The simple fact is for anyone who believes the majority of scientists commissioned by the UN or working at major universities, the only answer to the question of whether Obama has time for climate change is 'doh, yes!' Now, if you

believe in a small minority of scientists, most of whom have been shown to be on the payroll of energy companies, who say humans cannot do anything about global warming, then maybe such a question reasonably exists. But Obama does not belong to that minority of people on this globe. He has clearly stated that he fully accepts the threats posed by climate change, and the ability of humanity to do something tangible in combating those threats. Now, the climate change threat is not something that will only effect tiny island nations out in the Pacific. Most U.S. cities are located in areas that will feel the impact of rising sea levels. The entire Gulf coast and the Eastern seaboard are all under threat of an increase in the number and intensity of tropical storms that are fed by warming oceans. Indeed, there is no spot on earth that will not suffer some types of serious problems when normal climate patterns change.

So, the question is sort of like asking FDR during WWII, "We're pretty busy with Japan, do we really have the time to deal with Hitler and the Nazis?"

Yes, the president is going to be very busy mainly due to having inherited so many problems from the previous administration, but in no way can he afford to put climate change on the back burner.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Joe Markowitz (2009-10-17 10:52:20)

I don't think the issue is the president's time. I think the issue is whether the Congress has the political will to do it. The cap and trade bill is already out there and is floundering around in the Senate. It is not likely to get passed before Copenhagen. It could be that making health care a priority has contributed to slowing down the progress on an energy bill, but my guess is that the cap and trade bill would be floundering around in the Senate even if the Senate committees were not spending so much time on health insurance reform. It is more a question of politics than time, I think.

Sen. Reid announces Senate bill including public option (2009-10-26 20:11)

[EMBED]

Sen. Harry Reid announced today that the Senate health care reform bill will include an "opt out" public option. According to this proposal, states will have one year after the health bill is fully implemented in 2013 to opt out of the public option part of the reform package.

Reid said the bill was to be sent to the Congressional Budget Office later in the day on Monday. After the cost analysis of the bill, a vote will take place. The Republicans could attempt a filibuster, but Democrat Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. said that his party is very close to having the 60 votes needed to overturn such a move. Last Thursday, Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) said that the Democrats have enough votes to block a filibuster, a move known as cloture.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Leah (2009-10-28 13:37:57)

As Democrats of the Democratic Party, we are joining together in seeking reform within the Democratic Party.

Many of our elected representatives within the Democratic Party are no longer following in the time-honored footsteps laid down by the founding fathers of our great Nation. More importantly, we as democrats see our elected representatives within the Democratic Party abandoning the values and principles as set forth within the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Nonetheless, this is only the beginning of our problems as Democrats, for the current Democratic Party leadership is tainted by corruption and being taken over by Socialists. These Socialists are clearly a threat to everything we hold sacred in America, and

they are gaining evermore control over our Democratic Party, our Nation, and the American people. Despite this, we as Democrats can restore control of the Democratic Party back to the party members. All we need to do is cut off donations to the local, state, and national headquarters of the Democratic Party, and to make sure the donations are made directly to patriotic and honorable Democratic Party candidates that are not corrupt and/or Socialist. So please help spread the message to everyone of our fellow Democrats. Also, don't forget to contact and request the Unions and other outside contributors to follow our lead as patriotic Americans. Thank you, and God Bless America. Website: <http://www.democraticreformparty.com>

House unveils health reform bill (2009-10-29 21:53)

[EMBED]

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the new House health care reform bill today. The plan includes a "government option," which is a new name for what has been called the public option.

The plan may cost more than \$1 trillion over the next decade but it is actually expected to reduce the overall budget deficit, even more so in the decade after that.

Pelosi said the insurance plan "covers 96 percent of all Americans, and it puts affordable coverage in reach for millions of uninsured and underinsured families, lowering health care costs for all of us."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



3.11 November

Election seen as test for Obama (2009-11-02 21:52)

Tuesday's elections are seen as sort of a test for the Obama administration and the Democrats in general. Such an expectation on the small number of races may not be totally valid, but we will probably see things spun in this direction. President Barack Obama is taking no chances and he has appeared on behalf of New Jersey governor Jon Corzine who is facing a tough Republican opponent. In New York, things turned positively for the Democrats when the Republican nominee Dede Scozzafava dropped out of a special House seat race and endorsed her Democratic opponent Bill Owens.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



mdeals (2009-11-05 00:10:25)
Republican Victories..

Were the Tuesday elections a sign of things to come? (2009-11-04 18:44)

Did last night's election indicate problems for Obama and the Democrats ahead in 2010?

That's what one reads quite a bit about in the press today. However, we should note that the exit polls did not actually

link Obama to the failed gubernatorial campaigns of Democratic candidates in New Jersey and Virginia. Indeed, the exit polls showed that Obama still has a favorable rating among those who voted on Tuesday. I'm not trying to downplay the difficulties for Democrats that the elections may have been demonstrated by the Democratic losses.

The polls right now just are not indicating any apocalypse for Democrats in 2010, at least not at the congressional level. In fact, the current polls even indicate that the Democrats could increase their majority in the Senate. And there is nothing in the House polls to suggest with any confidence that the Democrats are looking at a net loss there either. And the Democrats did have some good news on Tuesday. They gained a House seat in upstate New York due to some bloody infighting between conservative and moderate factions in the Republican Party. This split was probably more important than the actual victory, although the winner Bill Owens will be able to help Obama with his agenda for at least a year. John Garamendi also easily won the other House race in California.

While much analysis still has to be done, I think that probably traditional Democratic laziness and low turnout may have sunk Corzine in New Jersey, while in Virginia, the Republican seemed to simply be a superior opponent in state that can easily swing either way.

Still yesterday should be a wakeup call for Democrats. In order to move voters the way they did during the Obama campaign, they need to reproduce the same energy and work. They cannot expect that everything is going to go their way with the Republicans in some kind of permanent retreat mode.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Torgny (2009-11-06 12:39:45)

Obama's popularity is above 50 %, but the polls show that the Democratic party is not very popular.

Too much infighting, lack of activity from Democrats?

House passes health bill, on to Senate (2009-11-08 14:12)

With the passage of the House version of the health care reform bill passing last night, the issue now moves to the Senate, which must pass its own version.

Since it is expected that the Republicans will try to filibuster the senate bill, there are two ways that the Democrats can beat a filibuster.

The most common method would be a vote for cloture to stop debate on the legislation, which requires 60 votes. There are 58 Republicans and two Independents, but one of the latter, Joe Lieberman, has said that he will support a filibuster. Not known whether any Republicans will break ranks. Olympia Snowe from Maine is probably the best bet although she has said she doesn't support an opt-out public option. The other senator from Maine, Susan Collins, is another possible crossover Republican. She's known to be quite moderate and pragmatic.

If the Democrats do not have enough votes for cloture, there is parliamentary procedure that can allow them to force a vote with a simple majority of the 100 senators, i.e., 51 votes. A move of this type was used to pass the Civil Rights Act.

If a senate bill should pass, the two houses of Congress will then work to reconcile the two versions and a final vote will be taken.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2009-11-10 06:00:15)
visit www.obamitas.com

Obama honors fallen at Ft. Hood (2009-11-10 17:16)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama paid homage to the 13 soldiers who died at Ft. Hood, Texas, after an attack by a fellow soldier.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2009-11-16 01:11:19)
devo dire che negli ultimi tempi
Barak è nettamente migliorato, soprattutto rispetto ai concorrenti,
Bravo continua così !

(2009-11-11 22:22)

After analyzing the 2009 election, there are some things that can be said. First of all, it's very clear that any idea that Democrats are losing because they are pushing too "liberal" of an agenda can be dismissed.

President Barack Obama won an overwhelming victory based on promises of change and the campaign's ability to motivate young people and others who had a habit of not getting involved in the political process.

Obama to hold jobs creation summit (2009-11-12 21:51)

[EMBED]

The job economy is weighting down on Democrats who are beginning to take some heat for the lagging growth in employment. The stimulus may take some time to work because most of the money is going toward programs that require a rather long development process.

There are some who believe that President Barack Obama should increase the number of government jobs, which is one of the fastest ways that Washington can create new employment.

The job summit, though, will probably explore other ways to help the private sector get back on its feet. I think it would be good for Obama to invite more unconventional experts rather than just those who adhere to the types of economic policy that caused the present meltdown. There is need for more "outside the box" thinking, even though there could be some friction in the process from people representing different schools of thought.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats mistaken in shunning Obama, progressive agenda (2009-11-13 17:56)

A rather predictable move. Democratic candidates moving "toward the center" supposedly to attract more votes. Such a strategy had been in practice for a long time until Barack Obama and Howard Dean came along.

Now it seems fashionable to follow the same pattern as candidates seek to distance themselves from the president and his "liberal" agenda. Never mind that the president is still popular while both Democrats and Republicans are experiencing deep lows in popularity. It seems that it's hard to break old habits.

Well, the evidence is coming in that many of Obama's supporters stayed home last election as the Democratic candidates tried to make their agendas not too much different from those of their Republican opponents.

The young and other normally detached populace got excited during the Obama campaign, but they might not be that excited about the status quo.

Now, Obama himself has suffered somewhat from the rather slow pace of reforms, but this is not because he is trying to make reforms! The progressive move toward healthcare reform, climate change, etc. is motivating conservatives with their tea parties and all, but the "slow" pragmatic approach may not be well understood by young Obama supporters.

Obama is not likely to have the high drama confrontations on issues that we remember from John F. Kennedy's administration. The times have changed, but he still is making very bold moves toward change. When passed, maybe I should add "if" but it's getting increasingly likely, the health care reform bill will be the most sweeping social legislation since Social Security. Yes, bigger than Medicare. In fact, maybe even bigger than Social Security. Every president since Theodore Roosevelt has tried to pass healthcare reform, and now Obama is right on the door of passing such legislation in his first year in office.

But still, people do not know all these facts – they like action they can understand and soaring rhetoric.

Now the Democratic candidates – some of them – seem to be getting the wrong message about the shifting mood of voters.

They are not going to motivate sleeping Obama supporters by backsliding and distancing themselves from the president. And these supporters are not mostly conservative either.

Most Americans still favor the president and about 2/3rd of them support healthcare reform with a public option. The difference between these numbers will probably shrink once healthcare reform with a public option is passed.

All the other interpretations of the current situation with voters are just flashbacks to a different era. Times are changing.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



whitehawk (2009-11-13 23:34:03)

thank you

Torgny (2009-11-17 05:09:20)

Many people think who have ad no practical first-hand experience of politic believe that a president can do whatever he wants and pass through any legislation he wsants. This is not true, and especially difficult is this in USA where the Senate often blocks any attemts to reform.

"The change is within ourselves." It is through the activity of many people tht change will come. Active people will produce a strong public opinion. We can not blame others (ex politicians) if we do not are active ourselves.

Obama the first "Pacific President" (2009-11-14 19:43)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama described himself as the first "Pacific President" of the United States during a speech at Tokyo before heading to Singapore for the APEC conference.

Obama is in Asia primarily to help jumpstart the world economy and to encourage Asians to buy American goods. However, Obama is hesitant to ink free trade deals in the region because of labor opposition.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Torgny (2009-11-21 16:32:59)

Obama is the first pacific president in the meaning that he wants cooperation between America and Asia. Building a newwork of trust and good relations leading to peace.

US tade unions are traditionally against free trade, and Obama is in a very difficult position here. If he follows what trade unions want, he will gain their support. But if USA stops buying US goods and put up trade tariffs, other nations will stop buying US goods. Millions of people in US industries of ex computers, aeroplanes will be unemployed. This is something that many people do not take into consideration when they want to stop trade.

bravo (2009-11-29 00:29:16)

Thanksgiving

Dear Obama,

today you are makining shape of world, against Muslim

your BOMB blessings, how your are killing innocent Muslim women,Kids, families and loved ones in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries.

But tomorrow is also a day to come,a GOD judgment, remember those who you killed your BOMB blessings.

best regards!

Obama to announce Afghan intentions at West Point (2009-11-29 19:15)

President Barack Obama will give an address at the United States Military Academy at West Point on Tuesday night detailing his Afghanistan strategy. He will announce both his intention to send more than 30,000 more troops to the region, and also elaborate on an exit strategy for Afghanistan.

The announcement of a large deployment of extra troops is angering many Obama supporters, although the president had, during his campaign, promised to be more active in Afghanistan while at the same time pulling out of Iraq.

Still, many of his supporters had hoped that he might have changed his mind, and many of his actions were interpreted as indicating a possible change of course.

There is hope that Obama's endgame, of which no details have been released, will allow the president to quickly assess the situation after the deployment and decide on whether the current course of action is warranted or not.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Torgny (2009-11-30 02:01:56)

Although I am a great supporter of Obama, I don't agree on this one. Military solutions never works in my opinion, although I understand that Obama regards the civilian changes (ex schools, police) as most important.

3.12 December

Obama's options at Copenhagen (2009-12-08 18:41)

The Obama administration announced that greenhouse gases posed a health hazards. The move was widely interpreted as a move by the president to pressure Congress to act on climate change.

The declaration by the Environmental Protection Agency allows Obama to create regulations bypassing the Congress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such regulations would be vulnerable once a new administration comes into office.

Technically, the president could even negotiate a treaty at Copenhagen without any legislation from Congress, but such a treaty would have to be approved by at least 67 senators to become law. Ordinary legislation requires only 60 or even fewer votes in the Senate but it must also pass in the House of Representatives.

Then-president Bill Clinton negotiated a treaty at the Kyoto conference only to have it fail to pass in the Senate.

Obama could negotiate a treaty that, if it fails to get approved, could still be sent through Congress as legislation for easier passage. Obama could also cut a deal to reduce emissions by executive order, using the new EPA ruling, with the understanding that such an agreement could fall through the cracks if an antagonistic administration comes into power some time in the future.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Eric Pearson (2009-12-12 18:40:08)

I'm a Democrat of the Democratic Party, and I do not agree with our Democratic Party representatives in Washington.

Our Democratic Party has moved to the far left, and we in the center and right are extremely dissatisfied with the "Change We Can Believe In" politicians and their obsession with making our Nation more like the Europe our forefathers had left behind.

Most Democrats already know their pleas to the Democratic Party are only being answered by repeated insult and injury. Many of our elected officials are no longer thinking of themselves as being our representatives, but instead refer to themselves as leaders in the true form of tyrants.

Nearly everyone of our elected representatives within the Democratic Party are no longer following in the time-honored footsteps laid down by the founding fathers of our great Nation. More importantly, we as democrats see our elected representatives within the Democratic Party abandoning the principles and values as set forth within the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Furthermore, our current Democratic Party leadership is tainted by corruption, and the liberals among us are supporting far-left socialist radicals with their agendas based on implementing socialist political doctrines into laws that are non-constitutional. This is a real threat to everything we hold sacred in America, and they are gaining evermore control over our Democratic Party, our Nation, and the American people.

To all intents and purposes, our Democratic Party is undermining and destroying our American democracy as founded in protecting individual liberty and freedom. The examples are so numerous it is nearly imposable to keep up with all of them.

Despite this, we as Democrats can restore control of the Democratic Party back to the party members. All we need to do is cut off donations to the local, state, and national headquarters of the Democratic Party, and to make sure the donations are made directly to patriotic and honorable Democratic Party candidates that are not corrupt or Socialists.

So please help spread the message to everyone of our fellow Democrats. Also, don't forget to contact and request the Unions and other outside contributors to follow our lead as patriotic Americans.

Thank you, and God Bless America.
Web site: <http://www.democraticreformparty.com>

Obama to seek free trade pact with Asia-Pacific group (2009-12-14 19:24)

President Barack Obama told Congress today that he will seek a trade agreement with a group of Asian nations. The Trans-Pacific Partnership with seven other nations in Asia was first suggested by Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore, and later Australia, Peru, Vietnam expressed willingness to join. Some farmer and rancher, and textile groups have voiced opposition to the trade pact because they thought their industries would be threatened by other participating countries. However, free trade groups lauded the decision stating that free trade would open up opportunities in all the countries involved.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Torgny (2009-12-15 05:22:03)

I think that we (humanity) today are confronting a great choice. Either we choose the way of cooperation, or we choose the way of "everyone for himself." Individuals for themselves, and nations for themselves.

I do really hope that we choose the way of cooperation, and I see this move by Obama as a step in this direction.

Dems weaken in polls as split widens (2009-12-16 22:22)

There can be a lot of disagreement on the importance of recent polls showing Democrats and President Barack Obama losing popularity.

However, it is hard not to worry especially after the Democrats turned over two important governorships to the Republicans in the last election.

Now, we see a split widening somewhat reminiscent of what happened to Bill Clinton during his first term. The funny thing though is that Obama is no blue dog Democrat like Clinton. Yet, today we saw Howard Dean, Keith Olbermann and others come out against the Senate compromise on health care. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-NY, who seemed quite positive about the bill when it included the new Medicare buy-in is also firing back at the administration's seeming compromise.

What is more problematic is that people are firing back just as hard at the "liberal" side of the party. There is reason to be worried now about 2010, more than ever before, so we will have to watch carefully to see how this all turns out.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama announces "meaningful and unprecedented" deal at Copenhagen (2009-12-18 18:56)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama announced a non-binding agreement on climate change today at Copenhagen, Denmark.

Despite the lack of a legally-binding deal, Obama said the nations had put together a plan to set carbon emission goals. The agreement was unique in that unlike the Kyoto Treaty, the Copenhagen agreement includes the United States, China and India – the first two nations are the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters.

The failure to negotiate a treaty is not entirely the fault of the United States, nor can the U.S. inability to come up with legislation be fairly placed on Obama's shoulders. The Senate said it was simply too busy with the healthcare reform debate to handle climate change right now. However, if it takes another year until the next meeting in Mexico City, one really cannot complain. An extra year will not make that much difference, but it is crucial that they do achieve a binding treaty without delaying too much.

Obama acknowledged that such a breakthrough was not going to be easy, but he said there was no other option. Somewhat ironically, the president had to leave the climate change early due to a bad climate situation on the U.S. East Coast where a big winter storm is brewing.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama Health Care Plan (2010-01-02 12:13:13)

Hi, if you want to know more about the obama healthcare please check my blog <http://www.obamahealthcareplan.org/>

Should Obama make hay while the Sun shines? (2009-12-21 17:59)

While it is still a long time before the 2010 polls, one has to wonder about all these public opinion polls showing some weakness for the Democrats and declining popularity for President Barack Obama.

Not that I think Obama himself is in any way threatened in 2012. No matter how people may be disappointed with the economy and the like, I don't think a Republican president is in the offering especially if the economy is still weak. However, the Democrats could potentially suffer in 2010 unless things change a bit and people start liking what they seen coming from the administration. Signing a health reform bill could certainly help.

Indeed, maybe Obama and the Democrat-led Congress need to hurry up and pass some of Obama's progressive plans before 2010. Not only may this help turn things around, but just in case the Democrats suffer a setback, they will already have a lot of things in the bank.

Obviously, the Dems will have great difficulty if they lose a single seat in the Senate. They could still get things by using reconciliation but it will be slow going.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Filip (2009-12-22 02:44:42)

Obama surfing!!!

<http://www.serenadavanoce.cz/?b2684e7f0e84fb160fbc8657fff62639>

Poll: Obama is America's most admired man (2009-12-30 18:40)

President Barack Obama got some good polling news for a change after a spate of disappointing surveys for the administration and the ruling party.

A USA Today/Gallup poll found that the president was the most admired man in America, while his secretary of state

Hillary Clinton was the most admired woman.

Most Admired Man, 2009 Barack Obama - 30 % George W. Bush - 4 % Nelson Mandela - 3 % Pope Benedict XVI - 2 % Billy Graham - 2 % Bill Gates - 2 % Glenn Beck - 2 %

Most Admired Woman, 2009

- Hillary Clinton - 16 %
- Sarah Palin - 15 %
- Oprah Winfrey - 8 %
- Michelle Obama - 7 %
- Queen Elizabeth - 2 %
- Condoleezza Rice - 2 %
- Elin Nordegren Woods - 1 %
- Margaret Thatcher - 1 %
- Angela Merkel - 1 %
- Maya Angelou - 1 %

Sort of strange to see George W. Bush and Sarah Palin in second place for most admired man and woman respectively. Palin gives Clinton a run for her money, but Obama is by far the most admired among men. First Lady Michelle Obama was the fourth most admired woman behind Oprah Winfrey.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-01-04 17:44:24)

hot-wallpaper

zamy o = hz 11

Prashant (2010-01-04 22:08:09)

Obama may be an admired figure but his administration is not free from systematic failures....check out this video

<http://www.videocrux.com/video/18069/Obama-cites-Systemic-Failure-in-U-S-Security>

4. 2010

4.1 January

Three key Democrats drop out of 2010 race (2010-01-06 22:43)

The Democrats got more bad news today when Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Gov. Bill Ritter of Colorado announced they were not running for reelection. Yesterday, Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota also said he would not seek a new term in 2010.

Some news agencies have wrongly reported this as a loss of a Democratic majority in the Senate, but that's not a sure thing yet. Democratic candidates can still win in both Connecticut and North Dakota although both states will be tough especially North Dakota.

We will have to wait and see how the public reacts to a new healthcare reform bill and other legislation that the Democrats may pass before election time. Definitely there is a lot of pressure on President Barack Obama, the leader of the party.

The real challenge is motivating those grassroots supporters that were so fired up during the Obama election campaign. Those supporters are very largely progressive people although not all of course, and they tend to be difficult to inspire with pragmatic politics. The more change that occurs the easier it will be to argue that Obama and the Democrats are worth the effort of getting back to work for 2010.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

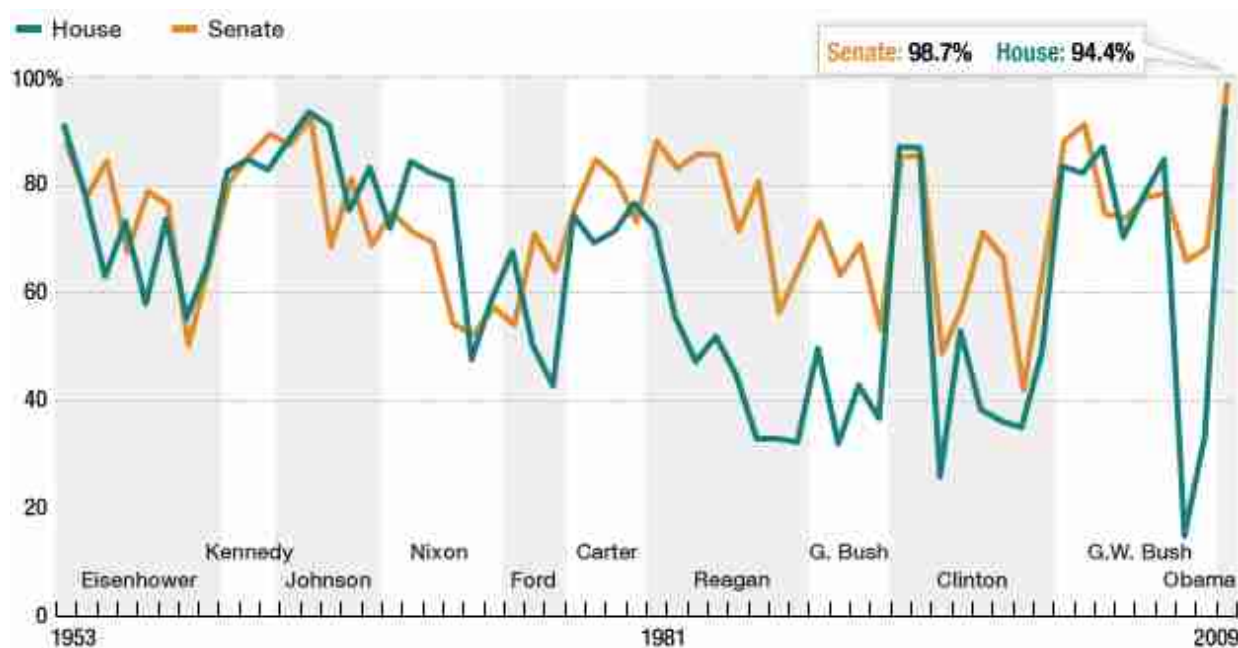


Progressives never had it so good (2010-01-12 15:52)

Despite all the whining by ultra-progressives, President Barack Obama has done a pretty good job when a non-biased, non-expectation analysis is used.

A study by Congressional Quarterly showed that Obama did better than any other president since Truman in getting congressional votes when he took a stand on an issue.

Here's the relevant graphic:



Source: Congressional Quarterly

Credit: Nelson Hsu/NPR

Many on the left seem to think that Obama can pass legislation by fiat or that he has plenty of leverage to "twist some arms" and get Republicans and/or moderate Democrats to vote how he wants them to vote.

Now, we no that even "I make the rules here" George W. Bush had only limited success forcing legislators to vote his way.

There are only so many carrots and sticks available to the administration and they still want to get a lot done even after a healthcare bill passes, as it should fairly soon.

Now of course no president can absolutely deliver on all promises unless they really have a Congress that agrees with him/her on all the issues. Obama still has a lot on his agenda. Of course, each "promise" is really a commitment to get things done and there are still other "promises" that need to be kept. Unfortunately, the ultra-progressives will make as much hay as the right-wingers if Obama does not keep a campaign commitment to the letter. Never-ending conspiracy theories will spring up predictably if that happens.

Again, Obama is the best thing to happen to progressives since LBJ's Great Society legislation. Actually even since the New Deal. No other president has committed to as much social reform since the days of the Great Depression.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama: U.S. will act quickly to help Haiti (2010-01-13 19:38)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama promised swift assistance to the nation of Haiti after the devastating earthquake that struck the capital of Port au Prince last night.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama reaches agreement on healthcare (2010-01-14 21:01)

President Barack Obama reached a deal with labor leaders today as part of an effort to pass healthcare before a crucial senate election in Massachusetts.

The White House agreed to exempt labor union members from a tax on high-cost insurance plans until 2018.

The senate race between Attorney General Martha Coakley and State Senator Scott Brown for the seat of the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) occurs on Tuesday. There is some concern that the Democrats could lose their 60 seat majority in what has been a very close contest.

Obama also wants to have healthcare reform passed before his first State of the Union address to be held sometime over the next several weeks.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama stumps for Martha Coakley (2010-01-17 19:59)

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama really fires up the crowd at a rally for Martha Coakley in Massachusetts.

Coakley is battling for the late Sen. Ted Kennedy's seat, an important senate vote needed to pass healthcare and other items on Obama's agenda.

To help remind Democrats to vote on Tuesday, volunteer to make calls at the Organizing for America website:

http://pollingplaces.barackobama.com/neighbors/random?bsd_id=652112&script_name=maoos&source=call5link&precinct=714697

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



DrKeithCurrie (2010-01-18 10:10:58)

I think anything can be happened, So, we have to wait some to see what is waiting for us actually. Thanks for nice information.

Democrats lose Senate supermajority (2010-01-19 20:40)

Tonight's defeat in the Massachusetts senate race was a big blow to Democrats and the Obama administration. However, it does not necessarily mean the end of the health care reform bill.

The bill is some danger, but most likely some reform will still be passed. There are several options available to Democrats. For example, they House and Senate could possibly reach a super quick compromise and vote for the bill before newly-elected senator Scott Brown is seated. Usually it takes a while before the vote is certified and Democrats could presumably move during this time.

Another option is that the House will simply pass the Senate bill as it stands without any changes. They could agree to seek changes in the future through the process of reconciliation. However, some types of legislation are not allowed for reconciliation so House Dems would have to sacrifice those changes. There is some question as to whether a public option is permitted under the rule ("Byrd Rule") that guides the reconciliation process.

Still another possibility is that they could decide to start from scratch using reconciliation to push through items that qualify under the Byrd Rule. I think this is a rather remote possibility.

What will be more difficult for the Obama administration is to pass any new legislation that they have planned in the future. They could be limited in the types of changes that they want to make. However, the Republicans were able to pass tax cuts using the reconciliation process.

Tonight's defeat was also an ominous sign for the elections in November bringing up the possibility of more losses, or perhaps even losing control of the House.

Obama may need to set down with party leader Tim Kaine, and perhaps invite Howard Dean over to talk about strategy for the upcoming elections.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Dave (2010-01-21 17:47:20)

I just wish that both sides would see this vote as a rejection of the extreme views of both parties. Enough. Of the bickering. Of the "gotcha" statements. Of the we're going to push everything we can while we can.

You know what, when Obama was elected, the majority had in fact had enough. Health care was broken. But you know what? The solution to that isn't to bite off the whole f**king billion dollar industry in a single bill nobody has read. That is completely asinine.

But of course, the Republicans will now see this one seat as a sign they were right. They'll block everything now just because a Democrat sponsors it, and we'll get nothing. Not a compromise. NOTHING.

F**k all of them. It's like having to achieve an average temperature with one foot in ice water and another in boiling water. We just keep voting out parties for the other, hoping they'll catch on.

We may very well be doomed because they are not catching on.

ToeJamm (2010-01-23 13:35:48)

If the nasty democrats try to slide a bill through before scott brown arrives it would exemplify that the democratic agenda is more important then the voice of the people.

Tuck your tails and run you hippies! No more taxes! Screw the health care bill and screw OBAMA!

Kent (2010-01-27 17:21:22)

Yes, let's ram through a watered down health care bill a majority of Americans do not want so Pelosi and Reid can say they helped "save" us. Let's get rid of ALL the career politicians in Washington and put TERM LIMITS in place. The arrogance of the politicians in DC makes me want to throw up.

Democrats agreeing on new healthcare strategy (2010-01-25 19:43)

According to reports coming out of major news outlets, Democrats in Congress are close to agreeing on a strategy to save President Barack Obama's health care reform plan.

The new plan will make some changes to the current Senate bill using the reconciliation process to avoid a filibuster in the Senate. Only 51 votes are needed for reconciliation compared to the ordinary 60 votes to squash a filibuster. However, not everything can be pushed through using reconciliation. A law known as the Bryd Rule requires that only things that are not considered extraneous to the bill can be considered under that procedure.

Passage of health care reform would likely come as a big boost both for the administration and Democrats in general.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Torgny (2010-01-31 05:14:25)

Let us hope that there will be some kind of reform in health care. One small step is better than status quo. The present system has proven itself being the most expensive in the world, yet it can not give health care to all people.

Anonymous (2010-02-01 11:06:31)

Amiable post and this post helped me a lot in my college assignment. Gratefulness you as your information.

Anonymous (2010-02-03 03:13:19)

Good post and this mail helped me a lot in my college assignment. Say thank you you as your information.

Anonymous (2010-02-06 18:50:30)

Obviously I do but I dream the brief should prepare more info than it has.

eL ecua (2010-02-08 11:33:53)

It's truly not about being republican or democrat or black or white..Obama is clearly not the right icon for the U.S. He won by grabbing the attention of middle-class to lower class with hopes of change. Now millions of people expect one person to change everything. Yeah? How are we supposed to run a country when we're making decisions to better the poor who do not do much to improve themselves. How are we supposed to better our country and economy when we expect people to do things for us? We all have to make sacrifices for a prominent future and we're not making them. You take things away and the only people who complain is the lower middle class and lower class. Don't give them health reforms, give them more jobs. Put pressure on them and they will increase their output then our country will become more efficient.

4.2 February

Obama looks to restart healthcare in Congress (2010-02-08 18:55)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama has invited members of both parties to the White House for a discussion on healthcare reform.

The meeting will be on-camera, but Republicans have sounded skeptical about the exchange.

Now that Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown has been seated, Obama appears intent on jump-starting the process again in Congress.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-02-09 02:44:32)

Easily I agree but I dream the list inform should prepare more info than it has.

Ddesjarl (2010-02-17 13:18:36)

This blog is great about covering Obama's presidency. There have been over a half-dozen lawsuits questioning his citizenship since he got into office. Those lawsuits were initiated by a lawyer named Orly Taitz who had her love life displayed openly in court recently.

Check it out: <http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/2010-02-18/news/orly-taitz-at-the-head-of-the-birther-movement-has-her-love-life-displayed-in-court/>

Michelle Obama: Healthcare reform must pass (2010-02-09 20:14)

[EMBED]

First lady Michelle Obama was interviewed by CNN's Larry King on Tuesday where she said that there was no option but to pass healthcare reform.

"We don't have a choice," she told King. "When we look at these statistics, we're spending billions of dollars on preventable diseases, and new health care legislation could go a long way to improving prevention, first and foremost." President Obama has said repeatedly that the status quo is not sustainable and that rising healthcare costs were the main culprit in rising federal deficits. The Medicare program is the nation's largest unfunded program. "So we have to get this done and I'm hopeful that Congress will come together, that the American people will recognize that doing nothing is absolutely not an option," Michelle Obama said.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama defends Recovery Act (2010-02-17 19:59)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama argues that the stimulus bill helped prevent a second Great Depression.

The Recovery Act has provided about 2 million jobs for people who would otherwise be unemployed.

Most independent economists acknowledge that economic stimulus was needed, and even more that more stimulus will be needed in the future to prevent a double dip in the recession.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Republicans use filibuster in record numbers (2010-02-18 18:44)

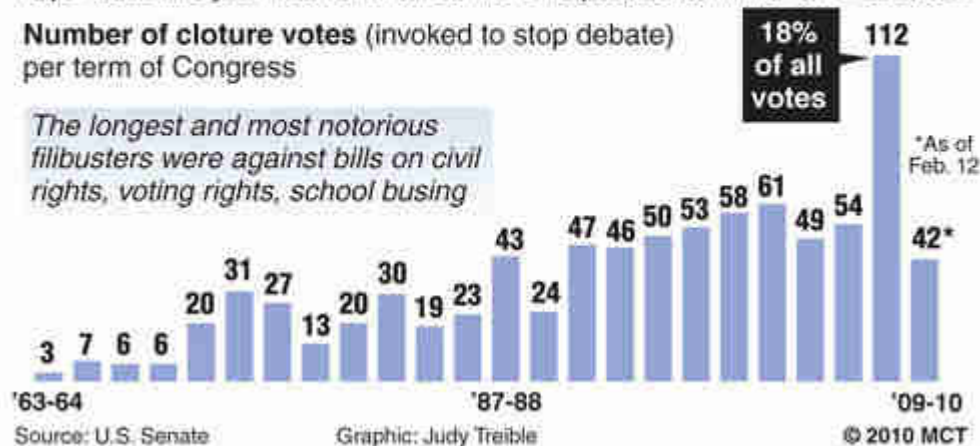
The Republicans in the Senate have done a good job at obstructing President Barack Obama's agenda as this graphic showing the number of filibusters demonstrates:

Senate tied up in knots

Republicans are using the filibuster (extended debate to block a vote) as a way to limit or derail the majority Democrats' ability to pass bills with the hope that annoyed voters will elect more Republicans in this fall's election.

Number of cloture votes (invoked to stop debate) per term of Congress

The longest and most notorious filibusters were against bills on civil rights, voting rights, school busing



Source: McClatchy

However, voters in November may not accept this as an excuse for Obama not getting enough done. The president does have the ability to act using executive orders and recent reports indicate he is ready to use this power. Democrats in the Senate can also push through legislation using the reconciliation process that requires only 51 votes rather than the 60 votes needed for cloture, the process by which a filibuster is ended.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Torgny (2010-02-22 19:08:32)

I do not want to interfere in Obama's politic. But since the Republicans have showed that they have hardly any interest in cooperation, I think it is now time for being tougher. Executive orders and other means.

Mark Scoville (2010-03-02 11:57:23)

Is there any precedent for allowing a secret-ballot vote in the senate that would:

1. free senators from the pressure of lobbyists and the media;
2. hold the senate as a whole responsible for being dysfunctional if not reflective of individual constituencies and;
3. avoid the appearance of heavy-handedness that might worry some democrats come November elections.

Let's face it, openness in government is no guarantee of integrity. Just knowing 'how' a particular senator voted says nothing about 'why' they cast a yea or nay. Any vote may be spun so as to look principled when in reality it may be cast out of self-interest.

Why not put a little fear into the dark heart of those lobbyists who use openness as a weapon of control over the public. A little secrecy—on select occasions— may prove useful, as it will inject some doubt into the notion that senators are up for sale and that they can be relied upon to give them a "bang for their buck".

Obama unveils new healthcare proposal (2010-02-23 20:34)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama revealed a compromise healthcare reform package ahead of a bipartisan summit.

The new plan has programs that are all fully funded.

There will also be an agency that will monitor insurance companies to make sure they do not unfairly hike prices. The new proposal drops the Stupak amendment to the House bill that would prevent funding for abortions in any new healthcare program. A public option was also not included in the new package.

Obama hopes that he can reach a compromise with Republicans, but there are reports that they will push through the new proposal without bipartisan support if necessary.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Public healthcare summit illustrates partisan divide (2010-02-25 19:50)

[EMBED]

As expected there was no real compromise during today's extraordinary healthcare reform summit.

After the long summit ended, President Barack Obama and the Democrats indicated they would be willing to pass healthcare reform without Republican support if necessary. However, Obama suggested a six week deadline for Republicans to join in passing legislation.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

4.3 March

Senators vote to restore unemployment benefits (2010-03-02 21:22)

[EMBED]

The U.S. Senate restored jobless benefits that had been stalled by Republican Sen. Jim Bunning.

Senators voted 78-19 to extend unemployment checks for the 400,000 jobless Americans who depend on them.

Sen. Bunning, who will be retiring from his seat, voted against the extension to the surprise of senators from both parties. Because many senators were absent from the vote, his no vote had held up the new assistance over the weekend.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Cynthia Beattie McGill (2010-03-03 08:50:52)

Everything Obama learned about diplomacy he learned in kindergarten and it is us, the Americans who are paying for him not learning good lessons in the childhood. Hope his putting America on the path of "set a good example and others will follow" philosophy works!

Cynthia Beattie McGill

Anonymous (2010-03-22 22:20:55)

Correctly your article helped me very much in my college assignment. Hats high to you post, will look ahead in behalf of more related articles promptly as its sole of my favourite issue to read.

Anonymous (2010-04-23 04:02:04)

Sorry for my bad english. Thank you so much for your good post. Your post helped me in my college assignment, If you can provide me more details please email me.

House vote looms on healthcare bill (2010-03-10 17:30)

[EMBED]

Reports differ as to how the healthcare reform package is doing in the House of Representatives. According to some sources, Speaker Nancy Pelosi is only a few votes from passing the Senate bill as it stands now.

Probably that would indicate that Pelosi should be able to muster enough votes if she promises certain changes in the Senate version through reconciliation.

The biggest issue right now among the Democrats is whether or not to include abortion in the reform bill. Some conservative Democrats still continue to oppose any bill that provides support for abortion.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Polls show Democrats need lots of work (2010-03-17 17:49)

According to the various election 2010 polls that are summarized on [realclearpolitics \(http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latestpolls/latest_election_polls.html\)](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/latestpolls/latest_election_polls.html), the Democrats look in trouble come this November.

For example, according to their analysis of polls for the Senate races, right now it looks like the Democrats could lose four seats or more.

Senate 2010 Polls

TOSS UPS

Colorado: Bennet (D)

Missouri: Open (R)

Ohio: Open (R)

Pennsylvania: Specter (D)

LEAN REPUBLICAN

Arkansas: Lincoln (D)

Indiana: Open (D)

Kentucky: Open (R)

Nevada: Reid (D)

New Hampshire: Open (R)

North Carolina: Burr (R)

LEAN DEMOCRAT

California: Boxer (D)

Illinois: Open (D)

LIKELY REPUBLICAN

Delaware: Open (D)

Florida: Open (R)

Louisiana: Vitter (R)

LIKELY DEMOCRAT

New York: Gillibrand (D)

Washington: Murray (D)

Wisconsin: Feingold (D)

SAFE REPUBLICAN

North Dakota: Open (D)

SAFE DEMOCRAT

Connecticut: Open (D)

The situation looks similar for the House although I doubt that the Democrats are in danger yet of losing control of the House.

Now, these polls may be a function of a couple of problems for the Dems.

For one, progressives and conservatives in the party have been locked in battles over several issues but particularly over healthcare reform. What this has caused is a peculiar situation when people from both the left and the right (Republicans) are hammering the Democratic Party.

Now should the health bill pass soon (knock on wood), then maybe this tension between Dems could simmer down. The recent compromise by Rep. Dennis Kucinich is a good sign in this direction.

I doubt if climate change legislation will be as controversial within the party itself, and I hope that not too much friction arises in the efforts to reform the education system.

Anyway, if things calm down before November the Democrats can reunite to battle for seats in Congress.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2010-03-26 20:55:02)

I would like to suggest to Obama to approach Dr. Hayhoe to be apart of his climate action team.

listening to her talk here...

http://www.rep.org/climate_presentation.html

Dr. Hayhoe really does have a way with words. I bet she can gently convert most skeptics over.

Here is another article on her...

Conservative Evangelicals embrace God and green

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2010/0325/Conservative-Evangelicals-embrace-God-and-green>

Best, Paulm

<http://climateportals.com/>

paul.magnus@pmcwireless.com

Things looking good for Obama on healthcare reform (2010-03-20 16:31)

[EMBED]

From the talk on Capitol Hill, President Barack Obama looks set to see the most sweeping social reform since Social Security pass the House tomorrow, and the Senate sometime later next week.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sounded a confident note today about the bill, which will be "deemed passed" and amendments added for reconciliation in the Senate. Obama is meeting today with members of the Democratic Caucus of the House together with Senate leader Harry Reid.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Capixaba (2010-03-20 21:04:04)

Do You has good blog . thanks so much by you blog. May i help you?

MORE ARTICLE BY YOUR HEALTH CARE

Historic healthcare reform set to become law (2010-03-21 21:20)

[EMBED]

A momentous night for President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party as the House passed the health care reform bill. Once signed by the president the legislation will become the law of the land.

The House also passed the reconciliation bill that contains changes to reform bill, and that still needs to be approved by the Senate.

For a good article on what types of benefits you can expect from the new law, and which you definitely should take advantage of, see this New York Times article.

The Democratic victory will likely help Obama's ratings along with those of Democratic candidates up for election in 2010. Some Democrats though will become more vulnerable because of their support for reform tonight, and groups like Organizing for America are setting up systems to provide assistance to these candidates come election time.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Em construção (2010-03-22 20:30:09)

The world is wishing good luck to USA, God bless Obama and the USA. I really believe it's a good deal, Obama is right, you're people able to do big things.

Brazil is with Obama in this case.

Henry (2010-03-23 15:00:53)

3/23/2010 : In order for you to understand, I like President , and I will jump into any blog that speaks bad of him in a moral issue,\" This will not be tolerated by me.\" But FASC Concepts is to reach out to President Obama and have him stand with the people and to be as one with us again. To remove this force pay and merge the views of 250 million people within this Bill to law. To build the most powerful Health Care Health Reform Stimulus Package ever thought of. But I have protested this Bill because of its lacks of moral value, against the People. Is There A Constitutional Infringement of a Moral Value for Health Care vs. The People

Part 1: 3/22/2010: { recapped for short input }

I had to wait for this Bill to be passed in order to show the Republican Party and GOP and FRC Action that it is the voice of the people that guides the destiny of this Country. I guess you could say I needed them to get out of the way so that the last Comic Standing will be FASC Concepts and we do not need the peoples money to assist the needs of the Peoples Rights.

As predicted , the first stages of the Health Care Bill was passed. Why, you ask ? It is because people wish to be seen for their in put of a view and not unite. What is lost is respect with in a concept of { Freedom Of Choice } to be a part of this system or not, with in this Health Care Force Pay Matrix.

What is offered by FASC Concepts is the Freedom Of Choice, because we feel it is unconstitutional to force pay into the failures of Health Care Insurance Companies and then Tax that money. As you can see our elected officials are paying little attention to the public. As I reach out to my computer and I knock , knock, knock on the screen, and I say is there any body out there?

Health Care within a moral value, is to , {GIVE LIFE TO HOPE WHERE THERE IS NONE }

You will not find any lies posted at our site, that is not clarified.....

You can find the details on p23. At the link site for www.thebluepill.mysite.com on page 100 at the main site.

FASC Concepts in and for Pay it Forward covers the web, join us in a trickle effect on p23 the blue pill link, ?
on google , yahoo, and aol www.fascmovement.mysite.com

Obama signs historic bill into law (2010-03-23 13:42)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama signed into law the historic health care reform bill today at the White House using 20 different pens.

After the event, attorneys general from 13 states filed suit against the new law. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Pensacola. Similar legal actions were taken when the Civil Rights Act was passed.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Preston (2010-03-23 18:47:42)

THIS MOMENTOUS DAY!

Not one day in anyone's life is an uneventful day, no day without profound meaning, no matter how dull and boring it might seem, no matter whether you are a seamstress or a queen, a shoeshine boy or a movie star, a renowned philosopher or a Down's syndrome child.

Because in every day of your life, there are opportunities to perform little kindnesses for others, both by conscious acts of will and unconscious example.

Each smallest act of kindness – even just words of hope when they are needed, the remembrance of a birthday, a compliment that engenders a smile – reverberates across great distances and spans of time, affecting lives unknown to the one whose generous spirit was the source of this good echo, because kindness is passed on and grows each time it's passed, until a simple courtesy becomes an act of selfless courage years later and far away.

Likewise, each small meanness, each thoughtless expression of hatred, each envious and bitter act, regardless of how petty, can inspire others, and is therefore the seed that ultimately produces evil fruit, poisoning people whom you have never met and never will.

All human lives are so profoundly and intricately entwined – those dead, those living, those generations yet to come – that the fate of all is the fate of each, and the hope of humanity rests in every heart and in every pair of hands.

Therefore, after every failure, we are obliged to strive again for success, and when faced with the end of one thing, we must build something new and better in the ashes, just as from pain and grief, we must weave hope, for each of us is a thread critical to the strength – the very survival – of the human tapestry.

Every hour in every life contains such often-unrecognized potential to affect the world that the great days for which we, in our dissatisfaction, so often yearn are already with us; all great days and thrilling possibilities are combined always in THIS MOMENTOUS DAY!

Excerpt from Dean Koontz's book, "From the Corner of His Eye".

It embodies the idea of how the smallest of acts can have such a profound effect on each of our lives.

Anonymous (2010-04-12 17:42:06)

I have watched as the world has watched, to see if americans can overcome their own social history of inequalities, injustice and undeniably their imaturity as a nation. First steps are always the most memorable. Good luck and God bless.

koitheawesome (2010-04-13 20:30:00)

A lot of people are pretentious about the new health care reform. Honestly, I'm hopeful.

The fact of the matter is that medicare was a financial vacuum for our state dollars, and it was a problem that was only going to get worse. By cutting out \$500 billion of madicare funds and replacing it with what is quickly being called ObamaCare, we have a chance to try something new and hopefully fix the financial ruin caused by a flawed welfare system.

Worse case possible, it doesn't work and we revoke the bill to try something else.

Trying new things is the way to reach the top in the international world.

4.4 April

Obama sets new nuke policy (2010-04-06 15:17)

[EMBED]

Pres. Barack Obama announced a new policy that would limit the use of nuclear weapons by the United States, and also set new restrictions on the building of new weapons.

The announcement comes as the president prepares to visit Prague to sign a new nuclear arms agreement with Russia.

Obama's new policy would limit the use of nuclear weapons only to countries that possess nuclear weapons themselves, or that are in violation of the non-proliferation treaty. Also any nation that attacked the U.S. in a massive way might be subject to a nuclear attack.

The move is Obama's latest in his stated policy of working toward a nuke-free world.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama holds nuclear summit in DC (2010-04-13 15:42)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama opened a world summit on controlling the spread of nuclear weapons technology.

A total of 47 nations are attending the summit in Washington DC to figure out ways of preventing terrorists from getting hold of weapons grade radioactive material, and other related technology.

Many of the participating nations have already agreed to contribute more money to the United Nations nuclear regulatory agency.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama meets to discuss Supreme Court pick (2010-04-21 15:56)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama held a bipartisan meeting in the Oval Office today to suggest his Supreme Court nomination. Obama will replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, the leader of the liberal bloc on the court. The pick will give the president that ability to influence the court for many years especially if he picks a younger person to fill the slot.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obamas vacation in Blue Ridge Mountains, NC (2010-04-23 13:29)

X

President Barack Obama orders at 12 Bones Smokehouse in Asheville, N.C., Friday, April 23, 2010.(AP Photo/Alex Brandon) The Obamas arrived in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for a weekend vacation.

The family had a southern-style dinner and then went for a mountain hike. The last time the president and his family were here was right before a big debate during the 2008 campaign.

Obama was the first Democratic presidential candidate to win North Carolina since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

lux (2010-04-24 13:58:30)

obama is not like mackain. who is better? mackain

Breakthrough on Wall St. reform bill (2010-04-28 20:48)

The republicans will not block financial reform legislation opening up the opportunity for the biggest changes on Wall Street since the Great Depression.

Bowing to internal pressure within their own party, GOP senators agreed to let the debate on an overhaul proceed, and things look good for a relatively quick success for the Obama administration.

"We'll end up having a safer, more secure financial system," Obama said, "and I think banks and other financial institutions can get back to making money the old-fashioned way by lending it to companies to build business and create jobs and do all the things we want our financial system to do."

X

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., right, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., emerge from a meeting

on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, April 26, 2010, ahead of a crucial test vote for the financial reform bill.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

4.5 May

Does Obama favor Kagan for Supreme Court? (2010-05-08 13:45)

[EMBED]

According to widely published reports in the press, President Barack Obama is favoring Solicitor General Elena Kagan to replace Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kagan has already been approved by the Senate for her current position, so many analysts believe that she should make it through the confirmation process without much trouble.

The Obama administration, though, has not indicated that the president has made a decision yet. Other possible nominees considered as favorites for selection by Obama are federal appellate judges Diane Wood and Merrick Garland

.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Kagan begins confirmation process (2010-05-12 20:42)

[EMBED]

Elena Kagan President Barack Obama's nominee for Supreme Court Justice was followed by the press today as she made her rounds around Washington.

Some progressives are resisting Kagan's confirmation by the Senate mostly because they are unsure of where she stands on many issues. Issues have also been raised about the fact that if Kagan is appointed there will be no Protestants serving as U.S. Supreme Court Justices despite that group constituting the majority of the population.

Most analysts though believe that Kagan will not have any trouble in winning a Senate confirmation.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Poll results show anti-incumbent attitude (2010-05-19 12:13)

The best news in yesterday's elections is the victory of Democrat Mark Critz in a special election for Pennsylvania's 12th congressional district on Tuesday, Critz easily beat Republican businessman Tim Burns in a conservative district that was formerly held by Rep. John Murtha, who died in February.

Other results such as victory of Tea Party candidate Rand Paul in Kentucky over the Republican establishment candidate suggest that voters are strongly opposed to the status quo. They want change and non-traditional, non-Washington type of candidates.

Incumbents will face tough fights but this might not bode as badly for Democrats as some are saying. A lot depends on how well the Democratic activists can turn out progressive voters, especially younger voters.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama releases National Security Strategy report (2010-05-27 19:22)

✖ (Credit: AP)

President Barack Obama's National Security Strategy was released today and the document shows a shift from the Bush doctrine of unilateral engagement.

Obama's strategy gives more weight to non-military means of achieving security and the new 52 page summary states: "The foundation of American leadership must be a prosperous economy."

The president said that the battle against extremism was "only one element of our strategic environment and cannot define America's engagement with the world."

The report also stressed areas like energy independence and climate change as important security matters that must be part of an overall security strategy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

forum politique (2010-06-01 06:56:38)

I think président Obama is on the good way !

4.6 June

Obama postpones Indonesia, Australia trip for second time (2010-06-03 22:02)

✖

President Barack Obama speaks during a U.S. India strategic dialogue reception at the Department of State in Washington, Thursday, June 3, 2010.(AP Photo/Alex Brandon) (Alex Brandon, ASSOCIATED PRESS / June

3

, 2010

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Barack Obama had to postpone his trip to Indonesia and Australia for a second time due to the Gulf oil spill crisis.

The president postponed the first time during the heated fight for the health care reform bill. Many Indonesians have been eagerly anticipating Obama's return to the country where he spent four years of his childhood. Obama's sister Maya is half-Indonesian.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Anonymous (2010-06-15 08:44:05)

I am a male Brit, married to a Kenyan Luo, the same tribe as Obama's father. We are both ashamed of his anti-British comments. We thought he was going to be a great President, but he has sorely let himself down. The fault with the oil spill lies squarely at the feet of the US companies and not with BP. Please God, don't bless America.

Obama needs to do the right thing in the Gulf (2010-06-10 20:49)

The situation in the Gulf has become intolerable. Now, I have to admit that I was quite surprised when President Barack Obama announced that he was allowing an expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling some time ago.

As someone who had supported Obama even before he formally announced his candidacy in Feb. 2007 and who closely followed his green agenda, I did not remember him supporting offshore drilling. I do remember that he did voice some support for nuclear energy and "clean coal." While I disagree with him on these latter forms of energy, I never expect any candidate to agree with me on every issue.

However, when you are faced with the truth of things, then you have to change your opinion. You can no go against the tide of evidence. We now can see very plainly that offshore drilling is not worth the risk of the dangers that it presents.

Many people do not realize that even the relief wells that they are digging might not work! You do not have to be a genius to figure out what kind of catastrophe that would entail. And no one has suggested that the amount of oil offshore is anywhere near what we need to solve this country's dependence on foreign oil.

No union or bunch of workers has the moral right to clamor for jobs against that kind of threat. They have no right to risk other people's lives and livelihood for a high-paying job on an oil rig. They have no right to destroy a vast habitat for untold generations just because they do not want to look for a new job.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama slams Republicans for blocking tactics (2010-06-19 19:13)

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama complained today about the resistance made by Republicans on just about everything his administration is trying to accomplish. Already, the Republicans have far surpassed the previous record on filibusters in their attempts to obstruct the president.

The economy and the jobs situation is obviously very much on the mind of Obama. Today there was a report that the administration is still approving bad oil drilling plans, which is very unfortunate. However, he is under a lot of economic and political pressure.

Senators and representatives from oil-producing states are balking on his energy and climate change plan.

At the end of the year, the Bush tax cuts will expire and this will give the government more revenues to stimulate the economy. Obama has talked about ending subsidies for oil and gas companies. Again this will bring resistance but also potentially billions in new revenues that can be used to offset any problems caused by climate change legislation.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama calls for \$90 billion bank tax (2010-06-26 19:50)



Credit: Reuters

U.S. President Barack Obama gestures prior to a 2010 G8 Summit photo with the "My Summit 2010 Youth" at the Deerhurst Resort at Muskoka in Huntsville, Canada, June 25, 2010.

Credit: Reuters/Saul Loeb/Pool

U.S. President Barack Obama gestures prior to a 2010 G8 Summit photo with the "My Summit 2010 Youth" at the Deerhurst Resort at Muskoka in Huntsville, Canada, June 25, 2010.

Credit: Reuters/Saul Loeb/Pool

U.S. President Barack Obama gestures prior to a 2010 G8 Summit photo with the "My Summit 2010 Youth" at the Deerhurst Resort at Muskoka in Huntsville, Canada, June 25, 2010.

Credit: Reuters/Saul Loeb/Pool

In Canada for the Group of 20 summit over the weekend, President Barack Obama called on Congress to pass a \$90 billion bank tax that will last for 10 years. Congress has just approved the president's financial regulation package, and Obama looks at this as the next logical step in reining in Wall Street.

"We need to impose a fee on the banks that were the biggest beneficiaries of taxpayer assistance at the height of our financial crisis – so we can recover every dime of taxpayer money," Obama said in his weekly address.

Germany, France and Britain have called for a global, one size fits all, bank tax, but many other G20 members including the U.S. have been less receptive of the idea.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



4.7 July

Economy and the Elections (2010-07-13 17:19)

Many Democrats believe that the resistance of the Republican Party against the extension of unemployment benefits and other cases of "obstructionism" are part of a political strategy to undermine Democrats in the fall elections. Republicans have also formed the main resistance to President Barack Obama's financial reform package, and to a new stimulus package. Previously, the Republicans have either voted for or supported these very same types of legislation but now they often used the deficit as a reason for their opposition.

One might wonder why the Republicans would obstruct in these areas since it could anger voters, but there is a general knowledge out there that the president will most likely take the blame when things fail. Unfortunately, many American voters do not understand sufficiently how the system works, and even many that do still expect Obama to

"twist arms" to get things done.

With census jobs and stimulus programs expiring, the failure to extend unemployment benefits will create a tremendous amount of pressure on an already fragile economy. And this could be blamed mostly on the president by some voters.

The job for the Democrats is either informing the uninformed, or reasoning with those who may be expecting too much.

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KEITH MYERS

At the 101st annual NAACP convention on Monday, first lady Michelle Obama spoke about her "Let's Move" campaign to cut childhood obesity. "We need to take this issue seriously," she told the crowd.

Read more: <http://www.kansascity.com/2010/07/12/2079452/michelle-obama-promotes-healthy-#ixzz0tby279CZ> html-

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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4.8 August

Tackling the deficit (2010-08-04 16:09)

Neither party really wants a huge deficit or national debt. The higher the national debt, the more taxpayer money that is used to pay interest payments on this debt. A good chunk of those interest payments goes overseas boosting up the balance sheets of other nations. At the current rate of borrowing, the U.S. could eventually owe trillions to foreign nations.

Even those interest domestic interest payments tend to favor the big banks and wealthy investors, although many pension funds also own U.S. treasuries. So over the long term, this tends to shift wealth from ordinary taxpayers to the wealthy. With the increasing wealth disparity, consumers were compelled to borrow money like crazy just to pay bills, and now even that well has dried up.

The only real way to solve the deficit problem is to increase revenues. What that means is increasing taxes, and they can start by letting the Bush tax cuts for the rich expire.

Despite all the rhetoric from conservatives, there is nothing inherently bad about government spending. In fact, the whole idea that government spending is wasteful is never really supported with any evidence.

The government offer stability to an economy as it is a dependable consumer of goods, and a dependable employer. The nation worked its way out of the Great Depression largely due to a very long period of steeply-increased government spending.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Fallacy: tax cuts increase deficit (2010-08-05 09:04)

The latest meme from conservative Republicans is that allowing the cessation of the Bush tax cuts for the rich will somehow increase the federal deficit.

According to this argument, tax cuts stimulate the economy and thus, in fact, produce more revenue for the government. Of course, little evidence is put forth to support this contention.

The whole idea rests on two main logical fallacies. First is the contention that the money not collected by the Bush tax cuts will be spent by taxpayers in the fiscal year. At best, this suggestion is speculative. Indeed, consumers may rather decide to save the money due to the still uncertain economy.

The other suggestion, which is just outright erroneous, is that government taxes do not contribute to the economy. It is almost as if the government is collecting taxes and hiding the money away in a cookie jar.

If fact, all taxes, every penny collected is spent during the related fiscal year. The money is spent either on government projects and infrastructure in the process creating or maintaining government jobs. Or it is spent hiring private contractors to perform work for the government.

Not only does this money get recycled immediately into the private economy, but in the process it allows the federal government to perform necessary services. If you do not think these services are necessary, then think of commuting to work on a freeway full of pot holes, or over bridges in danger of collapsing.

Even many corporations depend heavily on government contracts that are funded by tax dollars.

Now, as an example, let's take the huge government mobilization during World War II when the country had to send massive numbers of military personnel and equipment to two fronts overseas. How did they raise the money to pay for this unprecedented challenge? According to conservative Republicans, the government should have cut taxes to a bare minimum to stimulate the economy and send revenues sky high.

However, the fact is that Washington increased taxes to levels far higher than they are today. And the economy did not shrink, but grew instead. Indeed, taxes at rates much higher than we see today, were maintained even after the war up until the Reagan era.

The period was one of great stability with only mild economic downturns. In contrast, after the Bush tax cuts that sent the tax rate to the lowest level since just before the Great Depression, we see that the country plummeted into its own Great Recession, the worse downturn since the 1930s.



 Associated Press Thu Aug 5, 11:56 AM ET

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Raul (2010-08-05 22:17:14)
Nice info thanks =)

Electing good candidates in November (2010-08-06 13:24)

The upcoming elections this November are very important for President Obama to continue passing progressive people-oriented legislation rather than laws and taxes that only favor the wealthy and big business.

The best way to help out is to volunteer and contribute to your progressive candidates for the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, along of course with the candidates in local races.

Organizing for America is the network that arose out of Obama's presidential campaign. Headed by David Plouffe, they are spread out across the 50 states and they utilized a 50 state strategy during the campaigns in 2007 and 2008. To join up, go to <http://barackobama.com>.

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You can also help out with "netroots" campaigning at social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Getting progressive voters to the polls (2010-08-09 13:25)

President Barack Obama's victory raised many people's hope for change, but the evidence shows that there is little change in the behavior of progressive voters.

For various reasons, Democrats and other progressive voters, or at least many of them, seem to think that only presidential elections are worth the effort in going to the polls. Statistics show that they consistently turn out in lower number in midterm elections, special elections, local elections, etc. In general, they tend to also be less active in pressuring their representatives during key battles to pass new laws.

Possibly the most important reason for this trend is that many progressives and Democrats live in poorer urban neighborhoods with antiquated voting infrastructure. In some cases, they may have to wait for hours in line to vote after a hard day's work. Despite all the hoopla about America's democracy, the country still has one of the lowest participation rates of democracies throughout the world because of the class-biased voting system.

Still, it is not impossible to get Democrats and progressives out for special, non-presidential elections. The trick is to get them to see the importance of the upcoming polls. Of course, eventually it would be good to educate them on the need for regular responsible voting.

One of the easiest ways to avoid long lines at the polls is to register to vote by mail. To find information on how to register as a mail voter, check out this site:

http://www.declareyourself.com/voting_faq/state_by_state_info_2.html

Also, if you are interested in finding out who your local candidates are for the November election, visit the Politics1

webpage:

<http://politics1.com/states.htm>

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama still popular with liberals despite White House criticism (2010-08-10 11:39)

Robert Gibbs blasted "professional liberals" for their criticism of the White House, even suggesting they "ought to be drug tested."

However, according to a survey to be released by Public Policy Polling, Obama has maintained popularity with liberals while his ratings have fallen among other groups:

On the national poll we'll release this week 85 % of liberals approve of the job Obama is doing to 12 % disapproving. 88 % support his health care plan looking back with only 7 % opposed.

Not only are those numbers good, but they're steady. Obama's favor with liberals hasn't been on the decline. In May his approval with liberals was 87/10. In February it was 81/15. In November it was 87/4. Even as his ratings have declined overall he's stayed in that sort of mid-80s range with liberal voters.

The volume of the voices of liberals who don't like Obama is much greater than the volume of their numbers, which probably means Robert Gibbs shouldn't let the select few get him so irritated.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats offer open source for developers (2010-08-11 15:23)

The Democratic Party and OFA have launched a site for developers who want to help President Barack Obama in making the changes he promised during his campaign, and in getting good Democrats elected who will also stand up for progressive values.

Open.Dems <http://open.democrats.org/>

Developers can use the open source software to create widgets and interfaces for voter registration, finding Democratic candidates, contributing money, and more.



New York Times (blog)

Barack **Obama** celebrates primary victories as **Tea Party** splits vote

The Guardian - 54 minutes ago

"It has strengthened **Obama's** position. The Republicans turned down Jane Norton, who could have won the Senate race in November, for a **Tea Party** candidate, ...

Video: Obama signs bill to help teachers

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



OFA to hold nationwide canvass (2010-08-17 19:10)

The Organizing for America website is planning a big nationwide canvassing event on August 28. They would like to knock on 200,000 doors across the country to help people stay aware of how important their involvement is. Anyone interested in hosting a canvass in their area can sign up at the OFA page:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/MAFcanvasshost?source=BOfeature>

You can also sign up as a member at the site and find other events in your area such as phonebanking, rallies, voter registration, etc.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



OFA's job will be more difficult in midterms (2010-08-18 21:43)

The midterm elections will be a greater challenge for the Obama machine than the presidential campaign.

In the latter, the campaign organization could concentrate on promoting a single candidate, and on dissecting a single opponent.

In the midterms, they are dealing with hundreds of elections all over the country, just taking into account the congressional races. Of course, they can help volunteers connect with their local candidates, but it will be harder to help them with things like local issues and the lay of the land.

In most cases, they will have to leave that up to the local branches of OFA if such organizations exist. The self-organizing principle will be even more important than it was during the primary campaign.

One area where OFA can be very helpful is in getting out the vote in the last few days before election day.

[EMBED]

President Barack Obama used the homey backdrop of a middle-class Ohio family's backyard Wednesday to try to show voters he shares their concerns about the economy, health care and social security. (Aug. 18)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama and Democrats heat up fundraising (2010-08-20 18:31)

Signs are springing up that the Obama and Democratic machine is revving up to full steam in raising donations for November's elections.

The DNC raised \$11.5 million in July, and so far this month the president alone has raised about \$8 million.

Maybe even more impressive are the signs that the grassroots fundraising that characterized Obama's presidential campaign is getting back on track. Organizing for Obama (OFA) made a call a few days ago for 25,000 donations this

week, and they quickly exceeded that goal and are now gunning for a total of at least 40,000 donations. Here is the message from OFA Director Mitch Stewart:

Amazing: We've already surpassed our goal of reaching 25,000 donations this week for the By the People Fund.

But we need to raise the bar. Fox News' parent company, News Corp., just handed over a seven-figure check to Republicans to help beat Democrats across the country this fall.

When a supposed news organization jumps into the 2010 elections with a huge donation like this, I take it as a direct challenge to this movement. These conservative special interests seem to think they can buy their way into power.

We've bumped up our goal to 40,000 donations by midnight tomorrow.

Can you donate \$5 or more today?

<https://donate.barackobama.com/ByThePeopleFund>

Thanks,
Mitch

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



CQ Politics shows Democrats still leading in House race (2010-08-22 19:50)

CQ Politics is the website of the Congressional Quarterly-Roll Call Group that has conducted professional ratings for House races for the last 50 years.

Presently, despite all the gloom and doom in the media, they still project the Democrats holding on to a House majority but by the slimmest of margins. Here is there forecast as of today:

Democrats: 219

Republicans: 180

Tossups: 36

A total of 218 seats are required for a majority, so as you can see the Democrats cannot afford to let up before the November polls.

You can see the CQ Politics interactive map at this URL:

http://innovation.cqpolitics.com/atlas/house2010_rr

The projection sees 169 safe, 21 likely, and 29 leaning seats for the Democrats.

For the Republicans there are 168 safe, 7 likely, and 5 leaning seats.

CQ leans toward Dr. Ami Bera, the Democratic nominee in my district (CA 3).

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Dems debate House chances (2010-08-26 17:41)

Two interesting blog posts out there today on the Democrats chances of defending their majority in the House.

Reid Wilson: On The Trail (Hotline On Call)

Why Democrats Will Keep The House

The Arena (Politico)

Can Dems turn it around?

The first article takes a more optimistic stance, while the Dems in the Politico debate seem a bit less than enthusiastic.

It would seem that the recent poor performance of Democrats in the generic Congressional polls is the reason for the despondency among Dem analysts, aides, and other insiders. The actual House ratings are mixed. In addition to the CQ Roll Call ratings, the New York Times and other rating services also see the Democrats successfully retaining House control.

Also, the Democratic fundraising has been picking up lately. According to an NPR report yesterday, the DNC has more than twice the money in the bank as compared to their Republican counterparts, the RNC.

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(2010-08-27 17:39)

<http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/the-gaggle/2010/08/26/on-jobs-and-deficits-republicans-are-worse-than-obama.html>

Jerry Brown hearts Obama (2010-08-28 07:11)

California attorney general and gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown's decision to embrace President Barack Obama's endorsement was a wise and courageous move. The other Democrats who are avoiding Obama are not really understanding the concept of working as a team

With the mistaken idea that not associating themselves with the president will somehow help them with independent or conservative voters. Although Obama's ratings have dipped recently he is still easily the most popular political leader in Washington. And he is still very popular with the Democratic base.

By not embracing and defending Obama, not only do the candidates hurt the Democrats prospects in 2012, but they also risk turning off a lot of Obama's supporters. They can make it harder for the president and others to raise funds and volunteer support for the party in general, and for them in particular. They are not looking at the race holistically. In other news, a number of non-partisan sources have calculated that the Republican economic plan put out by John Boehner will result in higher deficits and fewer jobs.

<http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/the-gaggle/2010/08/26/on-jobs-and-deficits-republicans-are-worse-than-obama.html>

The Republicans want to continue preserving tax cuts for the rich and are thinking of doing this by cutting spending at a time when only the government can lead the country out of the jobs recession in a timely manner.

The financial markets are still badly mangled. Many corporations and even whole countries still have bad books that

could a decade or two to mend on their own! Their situation is not much different than those struggling homeowners except they have no option of walking away or foreclosure. They simply have to slowly pay off their liabilities, and get their finances in order. A lot of problems have been hidden thus far by clever accounting tricks. Unless we want this thing to drag on for a very long time, the government must spend to keep the economy rolling. The GOP plan will protect the money of the very wealthy, but will do little to help generate jobs.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Mr. Kowalski (2010-08-29 07:15:57)

The Republicans want to continue preserving tax cuts for the rich and are thinking of doing this by cutting spending at a time when only the government can lead the country out of the jobs recession in a timely manner

One cannot solve a problem of debt with more of it, despite the desperate cries of Paul Krugman. Until this:

http://static.seekingalpha.com/uploads/2008/12/25/saupload_a3.jpg

is resolved, there will be no recovery. This is a problem of debt thirty years in the making; it's not Big O's fault. But his policies of borrow and spend will have disastrous consequences. If he continues on this path, which I have no doubt he will, he will be remembered along with Herbert Hoover as the president who presided over a grinding Depression. Luckily for him, I don't think it will be the US that sinks first; Japan's sovereign debt or the European banking system will be the first domino.

Democrat's lack of enthusiasm or Republican feuding? (2010-08-30 17:46)

Two messages circulating in the media on the upcoming election are that the Democrats aren't fired up yet, and that Republicans are suffering from deep fissures. Both of these situations, it is believed, will have an impact in November, but which one will matter most?

Democrats traditionally do not get excited about mid-term elections, but there are some signs that things have been picking up lately.

Republicans suffered some internal defeats during the primaries when Tea Party candidates with wild agendas beat out candidates supported by the party's leadership. The division in the GOP could spell trouble in certain races where the Tea Party appears hesitant to support candidates who not share their agenda. For example, Meg Whitman has been under fire in the California's race because of her views on immigration and climate change.

Even among the GOP mainstream there may be some friction between those who support party chairman Michael Steele and those who are not happy with his performance and behavior. This could be one of the reasons that the GOP has only about half the cash on hand as its Democratic counterpart.

Divisions among Democrats, however, seemed to have cooled down. Many on the left do not like what they see in the Tea Party and apparently have been willing to calm things down as the election approaches. Indeed, there even appears to be a fire brewing under the Democratic base.

With still more than two months to go though, we will have to wait and see how these trends play out as the polls draw closer.

[EMBED]

President Obama is urging Congress to pass a jobs bill at the White House, MarketWatch reports Monday.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Democrat activity on the web (2010-08-30 21:22)

The internet provides more evidence that Democrats are starting to surge at least in terms of online activity. Using Alexa.com, we can compare activity on four important websites: barackobama.com, the site of Organizing for America; Tea Party Patriots, the Tea Party website; gop.com, the official site of the Republican National Committee (RNC); and democrats.org the official site of the Democratic National Committee (DNC).



[#">http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/barackobama.com #](http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/barackobama.com)

The chart shows that barackobama.com has clearly been busier than the other sites over the last three months.

The Tea Party site held second place for most of this time but both that site and the RNC site have disappeared off the scale in late August.

Another measure of netroots activity can be found on Facebook. Here are the number of fans for the official pages of the DNC, RNC, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), and National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC).

DNC – 114,731 fans

RNC – 176,728 fans

DSCC – 138,723 fans

NRSC – 19,722 fans

DCCC – 169,875 fans

NRCC – 11,241 fans

So, with exception of the DNC Facebook page, the Democratic pages are more popular than their Republican counterparts. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find a way to track activity on those pages. However, the DSCC and the DCCC pages are noticeably much more popular than the corresponding Republican pages on Facebook.

Just a brief spot check, but from the looks of it the Democrats look like they are beginning to push things online, which is a good sign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Theo (2010-09-01 21:28:14)

Paul Watson on Obama, Whales and BP oil spill: <http://bit.ly/9msubK>

4.9 September

Technology may make the difference in Nov. (2010-09-01 22:06)

Mid-term elections are the biggest thing other than the presidential contests that happen every four years. The other elections that made so many headlines are really small potatoes compared to the polls coming up on November 2. Technology will likely play a role in how the parties attempt to reach voters in numerous contests across the country. Social media will be important as it was during the 2008 presidential election, and mobile devices like iPhones and other smart phones, iPods, Blackberries, and e-readers may come to the fore as never before.

More people are using mobile devices now as compared to 2008, and the number of people who text regularly has risen dramatically.

Electronic media will undoubtedly play an important role in getting out the vote on election day. We may see location-based social media used to help bring bigger crowds to rallies and other public events.

The fact that the number of people over 50 that are using social media has been surging will be very attractive to political consultants. Older voters are more reliable in terms of going to the polls, especially during the mid-term elections.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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alfred (2010-09-02 15:29:16)

Excellent blog.

Fancy the content I have seen so far and I am your regular reader of your blog.

I am very much interested in adding <http://obamabarack.blogspot.com/> in my blog <http://the-american-history.blogspot.com/>

.

I am pleased to see my blog in your blog list.

I would like to know whether you are interested in adding my blog in your blog list.

Hope to see a positive reply.

Thanks for visiting my blog as well !

Waiting for your reply friend !!!!!

Obama interview in Oval Office (2010-09-02 20:51)

Watch this CSPAN interview of President Obama in the Oval Office, which has been redecorated, as he talks about how he and his family have adjusted to living in the White House.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Stimulus Package? (2010-09-04 10:44)

The Obama administration is preparing a plan to address the country's anemic job situation, but has ruled out another major stimulus package.

With the elections coming up in November, even a modest proposal could be hard to push through. The Republicans have not signaled that they are willing to cooperate. However, many analysts believe that a new stimulus package is necessary to ward off a double dip recession.

As I have argued previously on this blog, the economy is not really in any condition for corporations or small businesses to lead a recovery. The old system that got us into this mess is still very weighted down in debt. We saw what happened to the entire nations of Iceland and Greece, and to massive corporations like Lehman Brothers. Banks have huge loans from these types of debtors along with vast number of smaller bad loans, for example, all those distressed homeowners. The financial markets will take a long time to unload this bad debt and that will mean that businesses will have difficulty getting loans. What has driven the economy up to this point since the start of the economic meltdown in 2007 is the federal stimulus package.

As the old stimulus plan winds down, we may see things like unemployment begin to rise quickly again. To avoid this the government will need to act again either now or after the elections. In the end, though, we will need something more than just economic stimulus if we want to reform the system. The last thing we need is to return to the old ways of doing things – the bubble economy.

The current tax regime is not sufficient to fund the government, and yet government services are far from excessive. Thus, there is only one alternative even though no one wants to raise a voice on this issue. Revenues have to increase, and that means the tax system has to be restructured. We need to look at alternatives like an annual land value tax and a value added tax (VAT) that hold the promise of even replacing income taxes for the vast majority of Americans. We should also look into creating an economy and society that is no longer tilted in favor of big business interests. One area that looks promising is a basic citizen's income that could replace our means-based welfare system. A universal basic income would probably meet less resistance from conservatives compared to welfare since it is not means tested. Such a system would provide citizens with a safety net against corporate whims and economic bubbles. The consumer economy would be stronger and more stable, and, in the end, there would be less need for stimulus packages or other government intervention.

For now, though, we have to hope that a new Obama stimulus package is in the works if only behind the scenes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Derek (2010-09-04 19:10:48)

Those are sensible ideas. However to implement them would require so many toes to be trodden on in the civil service and the current land-owning "aristocracy" that it would involve a herculean political effort to implement them. The last time this was seriously attempted in a western democracy (Denmark 1958-60), a ferocious media campaign killed it stone dead, despite the fact that it was working as advertised. I have little doubt that an equally ferocious campaign would be mounted against it in the US, if the small numbers of the elite who would be worse off as a result of implementation, thought that there was the slightest chance of it being considered. This is doubly sad since it is one of the few measures that would have a chance of cleaning up the current economic mess and probably the only one that could do so without adding to the government deficit.

Paul Kekai Manansala (2010-09-05 08:44:32)

Derek, interesting comment about Denmark. The country is one of the most progressive in Europe and Danes often appear in lists of the world's happiest people despite a 50 percent income tax rate combined with a 25 percent VAT.

Doesn't surprise me that they would have tried to go one step further.

I think the key is to work gradually to wear down the influence of the land-owning "aristocracy."

Obama plans \$100 billion R & D tax credit (2010-09-05 16:13)

President Barack Obama will push Congress to pass a \$100 billion plan to permanently expand the tax credit program for companies the invest in research and development.

The new proposal, which is part of the administration's overall plan to support job growth, was revealed today at a public address in Ohio. The plan will be partly funded by closing corporate tax loopholes.

However, many feel that the upcoming congressional session may see the Republicans continue to obstruct progress by filibustering bills in the Senate. The Democrats will have an ever harder time passing legislation if they should lose control of the House or Senate in November.

Obama has been fundraising and stumping for candidates all around the country recently and this is likely to continue ot some degree all the way up until election time. Currently there are plans for the president to attend an event with Pennsylvania senatorial candidate Joe Sestak, and to visit Minnesota for fundraising stops.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama to announce \$50 billion infrastructure spending (2010-09-06 15:46)

President Barack Obama plans to announce a plan for new infrastructure work amounting to at least \$50 billion in an effort to boost the economy. He will also push for the creation of a permanent national infrastructure bank to prevent the nation's road, bridges, runways and other infrastructure from falling again into its present sad state of disrepair. Democrats lost the culture wars over the last few decades allowing Republicans to create the mindset that "big government" is bad. One of the consequences of that defeat was that America's infrastructure has deteriorated badly. The four year "report card" issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the country a "D" grade in 2009. In 2007, the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis collapsed killing 13 people, and last year the Lake Champlain Bridge between Vermont and New York had to be closed and demolished for safety reasons.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Democratic Party preparing for big vote push (2010-09-07 17:13)

[EMBED]

David Plouffe, the campaign manager for Barack Obama's presidential campaign, talks about the Democratic Party's mobilization efforts.

We're now at the point that lots of Democratic operatives are back to work as campaign offices open up all over the place.

A new series of election polls indicate that the things are not nearly as bad for Democrats as some pundits are suggesting. The party will need to get their voters out to vote along with registering new young progressive voters. It will take a lot of organization, technology and effort, but you can see the infrastructure starting to build up. Lots of well-trained people out there who gained valuable experience during the Obama campaign but have been barely keeping things together after the race ended and the economy crashed.

Fortunately, political operatives will not have to wait to long this time around before they have to get to work again for Obama's 2012 reelection campaign.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



myTrustBucket (2010-09-07 18:08:19)

I am very happy they are going to start pushing back. I was getting worried.

Michelle Obama and White House Dance Series (2010-09-08 22:01)

Great video from the White House featuring First Lady Michelle Obama who is hosting a tribute to Judith Jamison as part of the White House Dance Series. The video is about 60 minutes long and the dancing starts at 12:00. Very nice dance at the end by the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater.

The First Lady will be starting to appear gradually on the campaign trail raising money and stumping for candidates.
[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More data on web activity (2010-09-10 15:43)

I wanted to do some more checking to see which party was more active in netroots campaigning.

Using alexa.com, I checked for the daily reach on the websites of the congressional and senatorial campaign committees of both parties:



[#">http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/dscc.org #](http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/dscc.org)

The DSCC has been the most consistently active site over the last three months followed by the DCCC. The NRSC has been more active than the NRCC and lately has been somewhat competitive with the Democratic sites.

The next graph checks the daily reach of some independent progressive and conservative websites. Democracy for America, Rock the Vote, and MoveOn.org for the progressives, and Karl Rove's American Crossroads and the Christian Coalition site for the conservatives.



MoveOn.org easily tops this chart followed by Democracy for America. The other groups barely register at all. This data combined with that from a previous post, give convincing indications that the web is still mostly Democratic territory. Although some Republican candidates like Scott Brown in Massachusetts were able to effectively use the internet, it seems that most candidates may still be relying on traditional conservative media like talk radio.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama to hold rallies in key states (2010-09-13 13:41)

President Obama is holding live rallies across the country to support Democratic candidates for this November's elections.

Check below to see if there is a rally near you! On Oct. 12, there will be house parties held nationwide organized by OFA.

X

X

X X

Organizing Rally in Madison, Wisconsin

Tuesday, September 28

Organizing Rally in Philadelphia, PA

Sunday, October 10

Commit to Vote House Parties Across the Country

Tuesday, October 12

Organizing Rally in Ohio

Sunday, October 17

Organizing Rally in Las Vegas, Nevada

Friday, October 22

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



vaitheetheboss (2010-09-15 04:44:22)

nice information

<http://tuttudu.blogspot.com/>

Good night for Democrats (2010-09-15 08:53)

Last night was a good one for the Democrats as Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell won the Republican nomination over the establishment pick. Tea Party favorite Ovide Lamontagne also looked strong in New Hampshire where he is close behind former Attorney General Kelly Ayotte despite the latter spending about four times as much money.

In addition, Tea Party pick Carl Paladino defeated Rick Lazio in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

Although many have compared the Democrats current situation with that of Bill Clinton when Democrats lost control of Congress during the midterms, it's actually the GOP that is the divided party these days. When the Dems lost back then, blue dogs and yellow dogs – the conservative and progressive wings of the party – were going at each others jugulars.

Today, it is the Republican Party that is in disarray and in the midst of a civil war. That is not to say that the Democrats do not face challenges in November. Voters are basically ready to get out incumbents, and there are more Democratic incumbents than Republican.

However, voters may not like the idea of voting into power a party that is so divided, and associated with folks who make even Karl Rove cringe.

Again, the key for Democrats is getting their voters to the polls, and also winning over swing voters. Remember that in every election there are people who do not make up their minds until the last minute. A well-organized field campaign can help motivate Democratic voters and help last-minute voters make the correct choices.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



firerobin (2010-09-24 10:23:37)

There is no way O'Donnell will win in the general election. O'Donnell beating Castle was the best thing to happen for Democrats. We just need to sit back and let the Tea Party cannibalize the GOP and we'll be alright in November.

A Republican victory could spell economic disaster (2010-09-16 21:20)

One of the dumbest things Americans can do in this economy is to put Republicans back in charge, or in a position to stall things in Congress.

That's not just a partisan opinion. Had the Republicans had a major change of heart, admitting the error of their ways, and offering a new policy, then things might be different. But what we are hearing from GOP leaders is the same old song and dance, i.e. they want to cut taxes.

George W. Bush cut taxes to the lowest level since the Great Depression, but that only led to the present economic mess. There simply is no historical reason to think that cutting taxes in a deep recession is going to stimulate the economy.

Let's look at what happened during the Great Depression. Three back-to-back presidents, all Republican, helped set the stage for that monumental plunge in America's economic fortunes:

Warren Gamaliel Harding, 1921-1923

Calvin Coolidge, 1923-1929

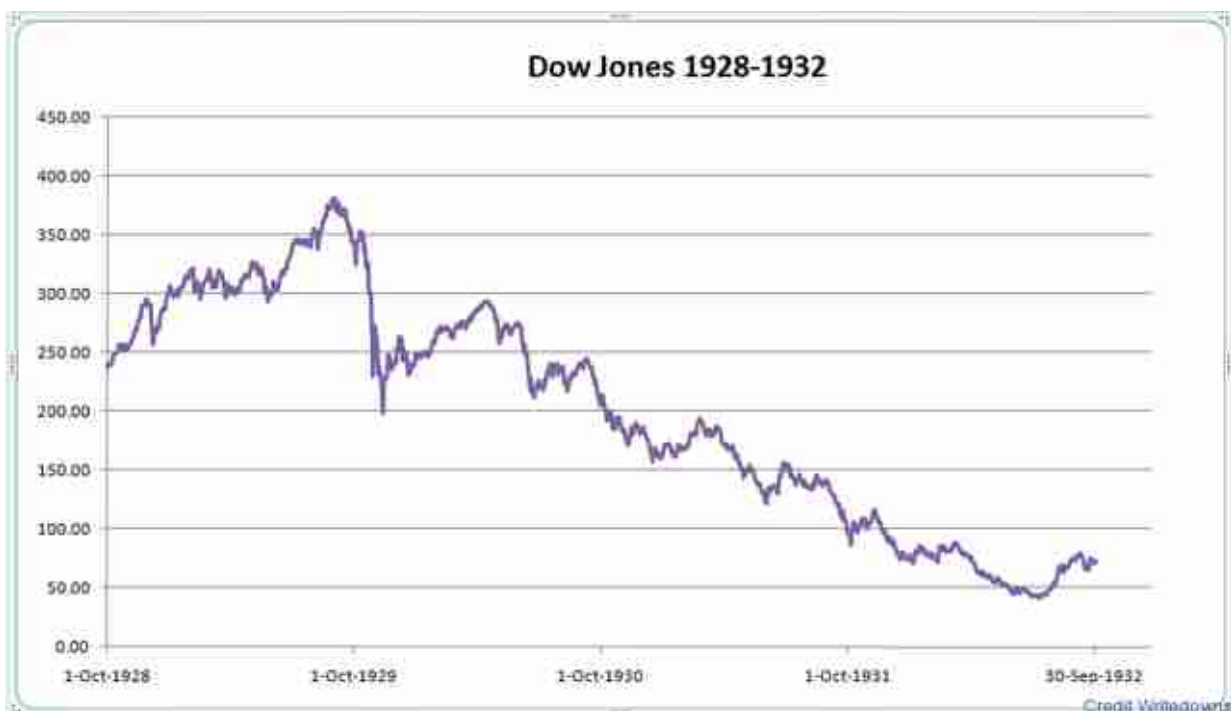
Herbert Clark Hoover, 1929-1933

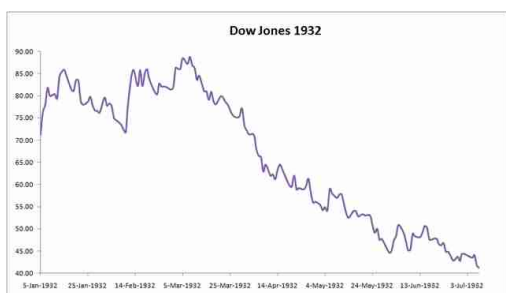
Harding and Coolidge combined their efforts to reduce the top income tax rate from 73 % to 24 %.

Many people mistakenly think that Hoover, upon taking office, immediately starting raising taxes to help bring on the Great Depression. In fact, Hoover's first tax legislation was the Revenue Act of 1929, passed in December after the October crash, which continued the Republican policy of lowering taxes. Taxes were cut for both corporations and individuals.

When the economy kept sliding, Hoover and Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon continued to fight for further tax cuts.

Now, eventually Hoover faced with high deficits was forced to raise taxes in 1932, but this was already after most of the major damage, on the stock market at least, had been done. In fact, the stock market hardly bled after the tax hike in June 1932 as the charts below show.





The second chart shows that the Dow reached its lowest level just about a month after the 1932 tax hike was passed. From that point, the Dow made a very slow climb up from that low point.

However, it can be seen from both charts that things were already sliding very badly before the new tax legislation, and that the hike hardly had any impact on the stock market's woes.

What we see instead is that most of the slide happened when taxes were at historical lows, and that the 1929 tax cut did nothing to improve the economic situation.

At least Barack Obama and the Democrats know that we have to find new ways to fund spending. Cutting taxes for rich people might only lead to more money stashed in derivatives and hedge funds that create no new jobs.

Obama's actions, including his recent plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, show that he is keenly aware of what it will take to keep things moving in the economy.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Comedians to rally in DC (2010-09-17 17:56)

Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are organizing marches on Washington that seem only partly tongue-in-cheek. Colbert is arranging "March to Keep Fear Alive," while Stewart has his "Rally to Restore Sanity," both happening on Oct. 30.

The rallies are in response to Glenn Beck's own "Restoring Honor" rally.

Democrats might benefit from these highly-publicized events, since both comedians have a strong liberal bias.

Here are the videos promoting the events from the Comedy Channel.

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/thu-september-16-2010/rally-to-restore-sanity>

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/359382/september-16-2010/march-to-keep-fear-alive>

For more info:

<http://www.rallytorestoresanity.com/>

<http://www.keepfearalive.com/>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-10-06 06:41:48)

Here's why Restoring Whatever didn't work on 10.2.10, and why Restoring Sanity/Fear will not work, either...:

What leftists don't get, and never will get, is that while they have little respect for this nation, (see the pics of the garbage strewn, after socialists gathered for Restoring Something)...they're a vast, underwhelming minority of people...

...and they're setting up camp on hallowed grounds...which includes our historic national mall, in order to act foolish, while trying to aid socialist-Democrats, will never, ever draw anyone, but likeminded Democrats...

...and there aren't enough of them, to matter...nor will there ever be, in America...'cause we're just not goin' down that failed, tyrannical road.

(2010-09-17 21:15)

President Barack Obama took a bit of a risk in appointing Elizabeth Warren to set up a new consumer financial watchdog. However, it was a risk that really pleased the base of his party. Warren is an outspoken Wall St. critic and generally loved by progressives.

Obama made a somewhat similar appointment upon taking office when he similarly pleased the progressive wing by selecting Van Jones as green jobs czar. Unfortunately, Jones under a lot of pressure from Republicans resigned from the post stating basically that his baggage from the past would prove too much of a distraction on the job.

Warren will probably also face much resistance, but maybe not so much as Jones who was considered far left even in a place like Oakland, California. As

How to stop corporations from hijacking democracy (2010-09-18 13:54)

[EMBED]

Corporations are back in the saddle pouring millions, possibly even billions, into the upcoming elections. A Supreme Court ruling overturned congressional legislation that limited what corporations could do in elections. The SC ruled basically that corporations are "people" and that they had the right to donate as they pleased to candidates and causes.

Of course, the SC did not vote that corporations could vote like people. Obviously they did not want to expose themselves to too much ridicule. Nor do corporations have to register for the draft, or pay estate taxes when they "die." Corporations are apparently exempt from jury duty also.

However, ordinary people have already proven during the Obama campaign that they are capable of dealing with big money interests when they work together. During the presidential race, people making relatively small contributions of as little as \$5 over even less were able, as a team, to out raise the wealthy Republican corporate heads.

Money though was only part of what made victory possible. Volunteering, including netroots campaigning, is just as good and often even better than cash.

The internet allows each supporter to act like a mini-broadcast network. In the old days, candidates had to shell out big bucks to TV and radio broadcasters, but now their supporters can broadcast for them for free. Of course, each supporter's network is much, much smaller than that of a national or local network.

However, we combine the efforts of a million - or ten million supporters - then the battlefield changes. Supporters can easily share an article, video or just a status update several times a day. To get that kind of messaging with paid media buys is tremendously expensive.

Once an online campaign gets going, just like a ground campaign, it tends to create its own propulsion. The more supporters invest in the campaign, the more they feel committed to ensuring the success of the campaign.

So, the power to stop the corporations exists. Each one of us possesses that power, but it is up to each one of us to decide to use the potential that we possess.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Who are we electing this November? (2010-09-19 18:17)

The victory of Tea Party candidates has come as a pleasant surprise to most Democratic insiders, but we have to remember that not everyone thinks the Tea Party candidates are bonkers.

A scary thought is that the victories of candidates like Rand Paul, Christine O'Donnell, and Sharon Angle could actually have the effect of energizing the conservative base. That's one of the main reasons that Sen. John McCain selected Sarah Palin as running mate – he knew that she appealed to the activists in his party.

Why Democrats who suffer the most from the accumulation of conservative legislation need to be prodded into the simple act of voting boggles the imagination. Of course, in some cases the problem is understandable. There are some precincts where would-be voters must wait for hours to get their turn. Even in many developing countries, voters are not tested so hard. One must wonder why a country that regularly touts democracy, and toots its own horn whenever possible, has such a low voter turnout rate.

What the Democrats need is to put forth, in the public eye, their candidates who can inspire people to get excited about the upcoming election. Who are the champions who can help President Obama achieve meaningful change in Washington?

The campaign can't just work on negative energy, but must also show vision and leadership. We need our own personalities to spotlight in order to counter the theatrics of the Tea Party.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats leading fundraising, waiting for RNC numbers (2010-09-20 17:46)

The Senate Democratic fundraising committee took in more cash than its Republican counterpart last month, but started September with less money stockpiled for the sprint to Election Day, new fundraising figures show.

More news that the Democrats are closing the "enthusiasm gap" against Republicans.

Fundraising figures for August show that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee raised more than its Republican counterpart the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee raised \$7.42 million, while the National Republican Senatorial Committee raised \$6.05 million.

The DSCC however spend more money in August and thus had less left over in the bank than the Republicans.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee outraised its Republican counterpart by about \$1.7 million in August. The DCCC had \$39.1 million in the bank on Sept. 1 compared to the NRCC's \$25.6 million

Figures for Republican National Committee fundraising are not out yet, but the Democratic National Committee raised \$8.32 million in August, with \$39.05 million left in the bank at the end of the month.

The Republicans have been giving a lot of their money to shadowy groups connected with Karl Rove. In August, these groups raised \$14.5 million.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-12-07 12:46:26)

how are you?

Thanks for writing this blog, loved reading it

(2010-09-21 08:12)

Ok the numbers are in and the DNC raised nearly \$11 million to the RNC's nearly \$8 million in August. The DNC also ended the month with \$8.7 million more in the bank than the RNC despite outspending the latter by \$13.9 million to \$8.6 million.

Some blogs and news sites have focused on the fundraising of shadowy conservative groups to contest whether the Democrats are really winning the fundraising race.

However, if you are going that route that you also have to consider the unions, which tend to overwhelmingly support the Democrats with a few exceptions. There are also progressive groups that support Democrats like Democracy for America, MoveOn.org, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club and others.

Building up a nationwide effort (2010-09-22 18:45)

A successful effort in getting out the vote and persuading last second voters is likely to require a centralized national effort. In this day age, that means a location on the web where supporters can come to link to the network, get news, and find out what they need to do.

The internet is the only suitable place for such a network center as people from anywhere in the nation can easily log into this central website. Now it is obvious that this center will be the Organizing for America site, i.e., the old barackobama.com.

Network dynamics dictate that a national effort will complement more focused efforts in targeted areas where Democrats think they can win. If I want to get word out throughout the United States, for example, where do I send 100 press releases. Definitely you do not want to send them all to news sources in Los Angeles.

Instead you want to spread the press releases out so the nodes are as far apart as possible.

A national effort works on the big wave principle rather than the highly focused person-to-person method. While local campaigns will concentrate more on the latter, the national campaign should be designed to create a buzz, wave, etc. in the same way that memes are generated over the internet.

The idea is to make election day a large inclusive social event. Sometimes campaigns in an effort to control message and to conserve resources become exclusive, excessively focused and serious efforts that end up turning off lots of people. OFA's job is to scoop these people up and get them involved in something that is massive, fun and inspiring similar to that of a presidential campaign.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats raising more money than Republicans (2010-09-23 12:36)

Ok the numbers are in and the DNC raised nearly \$11 million to the RNC's nearly \$8 million in August. The DNC also ended the month with \$8.7 million more in the bank than the RNC despite outspending the latter by \$13.9 million to \$8.6 million.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's health care benefits activated (2010-09-23 22:14)

[EMBED]

Many health care benefits are kicking in today:

- Companies can no longer cap lifetime benefits.
- Children with preexisting conditions can no longer be excluded from coverage.
- Certain preventative health measures are now offered without extra fees.
- Children up to 26 are now covered by their parents' policies.
- Consumers can appeal insurance company decisions to a third party.

Make sure to spread the word!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Last Second Voter (2010-09-24 15:28)

What makes a last second voter is their uncanny ability to wait until very late in the campaign to make up their minds on candidates and issues.

For this reason, campaigns must save a substantial amount of money to blanket these voters with ads just a week or a few days before the election. The field campaigns will also attempt late persuasion efforts. While you can plant seeds early on, the last second voter is surprisingly strident in their ability to ignore logical arguments up until election day. For this reason, it's best to refer to them as "last second," rather than last day, last hour, or even last minute voters to make the emphasis clear.

Often these voters simply don't have the time, or don't take the time, to study the candidates or issues. So, often it is just impressions that they get from a tv ad, mailer, or someone speaking to them at their door or on the phone that persuades them to vote one way or another.

When you combine the presence of the last minute voter with that of the reluctant voter, it is easy to see how important the last week and days of the campaign are.

Support President Obama, Vote on Nov. 2! (2010-09-25 13:18)

President Barack Obama, despite the opinion polls, still has a large body of supporters and rallying them for the November elections may be the best way to get a national effort moving.

I suspect that many hesitant voters could be motivated to go to the polls if they believe they will be supporting and defending the president in the process. Those who are not happy with Obama will simply ignore any campaign invoking his name.

The beauty of the presidential campaign is that you are working for one candidate all across the country. In the midterms, the important races are local or statewide. Thus, there are hundreds or thousands of important races throughout the US.

By rallying around the president, the Democrats can simplify the process of getting a national movement to vote off the ground.



(Source: <http://techbuddha.files.wordpress.com/>)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Democrats surge in newest polls (2010-09-27 13:43)

New polls just out show the Democrats surging in California, Kentucky and Nevada. Obviously this is good news as we approach election time.

The poor performance of Democrats in the polls has often been put forward as evidence that the public is dissatisfied with the party. However, much of that phenomenon may be related instead to the greater noise made by the Tea Party over the last few years.

Now with big elections coming up, Democrats are finally showing signs of energy and they are equaling or exceeding the Republicans in putting out their message.

Sens. Barbara Boxer and Harry Reid along with Kentucky Democratic senatorial candidate Jack Conway have moved up significantly in poll numbers. Also, gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown in California is leading Republican nominee Meg Whitman in a just-released poll.

Democrats need to keep turning up the volume and getting their message out to more people.



The alexa.com graph above shows that major Democratic sites like barackobama.com (Organizing for America) and democrats.org (DNC site) have been easily outperforming the Tea Party and RNC sites over the last month.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Big rally tomorrow for final 5-week push (2010-09-27 20:31)

President Barack Obama has a big rally tomorrow starting at 6:30 pm ET. Watch parties have been arranged throughout the country to kick off the final five week stretch of the 2010 election campaign.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Watch Barack Obama live at Madison rally (2010-09-28 15:56)

Watch President Barack Obama live at Madison rally:

<http://www.barackobama.com/live/>

Russ Feingold speaking as I post this embracing Obama. Other Democratic candidates need to be team players and do the same!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The Likely Voter (2010-09-29 08:20)

If you've been paying attention to the election polls, then you have probably heard the term "likely voters" used in reference to these polls.

Democrats are performing worse in polls that involve likely voters as compared to polls of all voters. In fact, in the latter Democrats are about dead even with Republicans.

One of the problems in determining which voters are likely to vote and which are not is that all the polls use different methodologies. And those methodologies often change as we get nearer to the election.

Generally the polls ask people a series of questions to determine whether or not they are likely to vote. As you can imagine, answers to these questions can change over time. In reality, early polls are not very good at determining voter turnout. Even polls later in the race are only moderately accurate in predicting how many voters will go to vote. Thus, in close races the actual voter turnout can really make a big difference.

Each side will remind and attempt to persuade their supporters to vote. These efforts are especially important with supporters who do not vote in every election. Of course, neither side makes any direct effort to remind non-supporters to vote.

[EMBED]

About 26,000 people showed up to support President Barack Obama at a rally yesterday in Madison, Wisconsin.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



4.10 October

Obama picks Pete Rouse for new chief of staff (2010-10-01 09:17)

President Barack Obama has tapped longtime aide Pete Rouse to become his new Chief of Staff now that Rahm Emanuel has announced he will be running in the Chicago mayor's race.

Rouse will be the first Asian American to serve as a presidential chief of staff. He is part white and part Japanese. Obama has many API staff members including his former Harvard college buddy Chris Lu and economist Sonal Shah. According to the video below, Rouse may have played a role in helping Obama decide to run for the presidency in 2008.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



DCCC launches interactive map (2010-10-01 13:00)

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) website now has an interactive map that allows you to find targeted House races across the country.

If you're local race is not included, don't worry as you will still benefit from efforts made by the DNC and other groups. The DCCC is charged with electing more Democrats to the House of Representatives and it's normal for them to concentrate their resources on races that appear winnable.

Some races will be targeted for get out the vote efforts (GOTV) only, while others, probably the more winnable races, are getting both GOTV volunteers and TV ads. Again, the idea is to put more resources in races with the best chances of scoring a win.

DCCC website: <http://dccc.org/>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2010-10-01 14:29)

<http://www.latimes.com/news/custom/topofthetimes/national/la-pn-dems-enthusia0101002,0,3588363.story>

sm-2-

Latinos, Blacks bridging "enthusiasm gap" (2010-10-01 20:37)

A NBC/Wall Street Journal poll earlier in the week shows that African Americans and Latinos are getting more excited about the election have helped close a gap in the generic polls for the House of Representatives. Judging from statements by

Latinos, Blacks bridging "enthusiasm gap" (2010-10-02 11:35)

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll earlier in the week found that African Americans and Blacks are helping erase the "enthusiasm gap" mentioned so often in the press. The growing excitement among those groups is also narrowing the margin between Democrats and Republicans in the generic polls for the House of Representatives.

Recent statements by President Obama and other prominent Democrats also indicate the the level of excitement among Democrats is rising rapidly. The most recent Newsweek poll shows the Democrats up in the generic ballot by five percent among registered voters. Attendance at rallies like the recent appearance of Obama in Wisconsin that attracted about 26,000 people also provide more evidence that the enthusiasm gap is narrowing quickly.

The level of enthusiasm among minority voters can play a big role in these elections. What may end up happening is that in states and districts where Republicans are expected to win, they will simply win by larger margins that usual. However, in other areas where the races are closer and where there are large minority communities, a better than

expected turnout among these groups could lead to Democratic victories.

We've seen the same phenomenon before and it's related to the dual factors of the greater diversity of the Democratic Party and the segregated nature of many districts and even some whole states. If the energy level among minority voters continues to spike, we may even see unexpected gains for the Democrats.

Latino voters can make a big difference, for example, in the big senate races in California, pitting Sen. Barbara Boxer against Carly Fiorina, and in Nevada, where Sen. Harry Reid is facing Sharon Angle. Black and Asian Pacific Islander voters will also make a significant difference in those races. African American voters will be more prominent in states like Illinois, Pennsylvania and Florida. Indeed, we may see a new enthusiasm gap – this time with Democrats leading as the more motivated party.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Green Choice between Democrats and Republicans (2010-10-03 21:42)

[EMBED]

One of many areas in which Democrats offer a clear choice in contrast with Republicans is in the promotion of clean energy and green jobs.

The large bulk of Democrats are also clearly committed to fighting climate change. In comparison, all the current Republican congressional candidates have voiced doubts over the existence of climate change influenced by humans. Many of these Republican candidates are outspoken in their opposition to any efforts to battle climate change.

Obama and most Democrats have clearly supported the creation of green jobs – seen by the vast majority of experts as the economic wave of the future. In comparison, Republicans and some blue dog Democrats have supported big oil, coal and other dirty industries that are not sustainable.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Who are the Swing Voters? (2010-10-04 17:30)

Generally, more Democrats are swing voters than Republicans. Areas like the "Rust Belt" including the rural parts of states like Ohio and Pennsylvania hold large numbers of Democratic swing voters.

Former president Ronald Reagan was able to swing these voters over to his column and they have since been known as Reagan Democrats.

However, there are also Republican swing voters. President Barack Obama was especially gifted at attracting such votes. Probably the most noteworthy Republican swing voters for Obama was former secretary of state Gen. Colin Powell.

Of course, many voters who decline to state their party preference and many of those who are registered with independent parties can also be considered swing voters.

Early polls do not tell us much about swing voters because they really start looking at the issues closely late in the race.

Jobs and the economy will undoubtedly be a very important issues because many swing voters are located in rural areas that often depend on a very limited number of job providers.

Other swing voters tend to be young as they are still making up their minds on who has the best approach. However,

more young voters these days lean toward a progressive ideology and, for this reason, the Democrats have been going full force registering young voters.

Here in California, the deadline for registering new voters is Oct. 18.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



DNC raises record cash in Sept. (2010-10-05 08:14)

The latest evidence that the "enthusiasm gap" is waning is found in a report from the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) raised \$16 million in September according to DNC sources – the biggest monthly haul since 2002.

While a ABC/Washington Post poll released today still showed Republicans are more enthusiastic about voting, the slide in Democratic energy appears to have stopped. The poll was unchanged from the previous month – the first leveling off since July.

The discrepancy may lie in the fact that Democrats are now engaged in motivating their base, their activists. They are preparing for the big push that will start about next week. No surprise that your average Democratic voter is not that energized since we're not electing the big chief.

What we should see is all these mobilized Democratic volunteers going door-to-door, calling voters, holding rallies, staffing tables, waving signs, and doing other campaign stuff to make progressive voters more aware. They will be trying to instill in supporting voters the importance of preventing gridlock in Washington and in advancing a forward-moving agenda.

With all the new cash, expect to see a mass media campaign fairly soon with the same objectives.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



On the Issues: Jobs and Economy (2010-10-07 17:33)

The top issues in the November elections according to just about every source are jobs and the economy.

Many people are still out of work especially when one considers the long-term unemployed who are not even counted in the official labor statistics. So, which party is best for jobs and the economy?

Well, when you look at the GOP "pledge" proposals all we see is the same type of thing the Republicans have been pushing since Ronald Reagan, i.e., cutting taxes. Now, we should remember that George W. Bush cut taxes to the lowest rate since just before the Great Depression, and we know we're that led us – into the Great Recession.

Now, the GOP wants to cut taxes and to avoid growing the deficit they are proposing significant cuts in government spending. The immediate effect of spending cuts will mean loss of jobs. Republicans are not telling that us up front, but that's the reality. They cannot make deep cuts without at the same time cutting government jobs.

How will that impact the economy? Well, those people will add to the masses of unemployed making it harder for the currently unemployed to find work. The newly unemployed will have to cut back on spending and many could end up defaulting on their mortgages.

According to Republicans, the money saved from these cuts and returned to taxpayers will then jump start the economy by encouraging spending. But how do we know that will happen?

The fact is that in a troubled economy people could end up saving any tax benefit they receive. A tax break is not the same a full-time job. The government has already tried returning money to the people. Remember the Bush tax rebates?

What the Democrats are proposing are structural changes that will help the government afford the programs that it should maintain. The country's infrastructure is crumbling because the GOP has opposed "big government" for decades. How can we really afford to cut back when we're so far behind?

What we really need is to a rollback on tax cuts on the rich implemented during the Bush years.

President Obama is proposing rebuilding America's infrastructure and leading the country into the green tech revolution. That's the direction the country needs to move in order to create jobs and gradually lead the country out of a still tangled financial mess.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama's support among Black voters still high (2010-10-08 20:52)

[EMBED]

Despite much higher unemployment rates among African Americans, Obama's still holds strong support among black voters.

The president is putting significant effort to get black and other minority voters to the polls in November. Minorities generally vote at lower rates during off-year elections.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Early voting is underway (2010-10-09 08:12)

Early voting, especially by mail ballot, is underway in many states. I completed my mail ballot yesterday.

Candidates are scrambling to get last minute messages to voters before they fill in their early ballots. However, this segment is often the hardest to persuade. They tend to stay abreast of the issues and form their own strong opinions. Many fewer of them are "swing voters."

Rust belt states

I've noticed in the "rust belt" states that the Democratic internet activity is lower than that of the Republicans. For example, the websites of Sestak and Fisher in Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively are far less busy than those of their GOP opponents. That should never be the case, as the internet is a Democratic stronghold. The party needs to do more to drive people to Democratic sites in these areas.

Nothing wrong with canvassing and other old school campaigning efforts, but you cannot give up the technological/media battlefield.

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Many Americans have been depending on unemployment benefits as their main source of income during this recession. Given that unemployment benefits are a type of insurance that is paid for by employees while they work, you would think there would be no question as to a person's right to these benefits.

However, recent declarations by Republican candidates, and in conservative opinion columns, throws this right into question.

Alaska Republican Joe Miller, who is vying for the U.S Senate seat in that state this November, has questioned the constitutionality of unemployment benefits.

In response to his claim, the New York Sun, a former broadsheet that now publishes online, wrote an editorial in support of Miller.

For the record, a lot of people agree with him, including a number of Supreme Court justices. It may yet be that, as our country bores down to constitutional bedrock in the great political struggle under way today, a new generation of justices will take a new look at the question.

A number of conservative blogs have also chimed in to support Miller. Other Republican candidates have been supporting mandatory regular drug tests for people on unemployment benefits. If people fail these drug tests, they could be denied benefits.

Republicans have balked at extensions of benefits during the recession, although in the end some have crossed over to support Democrats and pass these extensions.

However, should the situation deteriorate, future extensions could fail in a more conservative environment.

The Democratic stance is that extensions are necessary because of the extraordinary recession – the greatest since the Great Depression – that continues in the form a jobs recession. By not extending benefits, people will run out of money and will hardly be in any position to help with the consumer economy. In some cases, loss of benefits could result in people losing their homes and contributing to the depressed housing market.

Also, the Democrats are defending unemployment benefits rather than questioning their constitutionality.

The Tea Party has been pushing libertarian sentiments that threaten not only unemployment benefits but also Social Security, minimum wage laws and a host of other "safety net" items that Americans have come to expect. Unfortunately, mainstream Republicans – many fearful after Tea Party primary victories – have at times been voicing support for such extreme measures.



President Obama speaking at a family business in Maryland.

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Ed Dolan (2010-10-09 20:05:46)

I am not a judge of the constitutional legalities of federal vs state unemployment laws, but moving unemployment insurance to the states raises some daunting practical issues

First, not all states are hit equally by unemployment. Enlarging the pool covered by insurance benefits everyone by spreading risk, for much the same reason as it is easier for large employers to provide health-care coverage than for small ones to do so. Second, unemployment benefits, as a transfer from the federal government to states, help the hardest-hit states to manage their budgets. This moderates the business cycle for the whole country.

Discussions of what is wrong with fiscal policy in Europe often point to lack of center-to-regional transfers as a source of instability, one of many factors that is behind disasters like Greece and now Ireland. We should learn from the mistakes of others, not copy those mistakes!

On the Issues: Social Security (2010-10-10 11:55)

One very interesting aspect of this election cycle is the willingness of a number of Republican candidates to openly call for changes or even privatization of the Social Security system.

The most outspoken critic of Social Security has been Alaska's Republican Senate nominee Joe Miller who has defended a privatized system and has even said that he would even federal Social Security for newly-born Americans. Nevada GOP Senate nominee Sharron Angle has also made statements indicating she would support privatization of

Social Security, but lately has been backing off this stance. Others who appear to have supported cutting benefits but now deny such a position are the Republican Senate candidates from Kentucky Colorado, Pennsylvania and Florida: Rand Paul, Ken Buck, Pat Toomey and Marco Rubio respectively. Some of these candidates also have made statements that appear to support privatization.

In Florida, Gov. Charlie Crist, a Republican who is running as an independent against Rubio, said that the latter was trying to ""balance the budget on the backs of seniors"" by changing Social Security benefits and eligibility age.

The Democrats are definitely against privatization, but some have supported reform. The administration will not adjust benefits for cost of living (COLA) for the second straight year due to deficit concerns.

Of course, some reform is needed as the system is headed for trouble, but many Democrats are against reducing benefits or raising the retirement age. Currently Social Security can continue as is giving full benefits up to the year 2039.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is leading the fight to preserve benefits as they stand and he has eleven co-sponsors – all Democrat – for his resolution.

Sanders co-sponsors are:

Sens. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii),
Barbara Boxer (D-Calif),
Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio),
Russ Feingold (D-Wis.),
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y),
Tom Harkin (D-Iowa),
Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii),
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.),
Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.)
Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.),
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.).

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Video: A blast from the past! (2010-10-11 14:59)

I created a fun little video that helps jog the memory a bit about what led the country into its current problems. Hope there is a message here of the importance of voting!

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The importance of minority and young vot to Democrats (2010-10-12 18:29)

Yes, in big national elections like this the Democrats need minorities to turn out and vote for Democratic candidates. The NAACP recently held a big rally in DC to help stir up things among African American voters. When minority voters

turn out, the Democrats generally can win these national elections.

In addition, the Democrats usually win when the youth vote comes out. Most young people these days are very progressive. But they're still young people, and many still need to be reminded to vote. Some young voters and minority voters don't realize the importance of the mid-term elections.

To find out the deadline for voter registration in your state, visit this site:

http://www.declareyourself.com/voting_faq/state_by_state_info_2.html

Minority and young voters should also consider voting early. In many states, you can register to become a permanent mail voter, which means you do not have to wait in lines on election day.



The battle of 2012?

A Bloomberg poll suggests that Barack Obama would beat Sarah Palin by 16 points in a 2012 contest. Photo by Steven Senne, AP.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2010-10-23 06:10:31)

Hello,

I have a message for the webmaster/admin here at www.blogger.com.

May I use part of the information from this blog post right above if I give a backlink back to your site?

Thanks,

Alex

Women helping Democratic Senate raceswo (2010-10-13 18:04)

A CNN/TIME/Opinion Research poll of likely voters indicates that women are helping to buoy Democratic senatorial candidates in a number of states including Washington, Delaware, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In a number of states such as Washington, Obama is doing much better among women voters of all parties in comparison to his support among men voters. However, the approval ratings for Obama cannot be generalized to the 2012 polls. For example, you have to consider who will be running against the president. None of the current crop of

candidates is anywhere near as popular as Obama.

In other news, two independent GOP groups led by former Bush chief of staff Karl Rove are preparing to unleash a \$50 million ad campaign in support of Republicans running for the House of Representatives.

Unions and progressive groups like MoveOn.org and Think Progress have also been spending money supporting Democratic candidates, but so far at a slower pace than the Republican-friendly groups.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Maddow: Anonymous corporate donors firing up as new campaign issue (2010-10-14 19:45)

[EMBED]

Excellent piece by MSNBC commentator Rachel Maddow on a new message gaining ground among Democrats.

The big corporate donors are contributing anonymously to campaigns in support of candidates and ballot measures. Evidence is building that many voters are concerned about these money sources and want to know who is funding what. In particular, the possibility that foreign multi-national companies may be contributing to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's political ad campaigns is of major concern.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Yes we have no bananas! (2010-10-15 09:21)



When you think about it, the emergence of covert corporation campaign funding as a major issue is not surprising. While just some years ago, the players on Wall St. were idolized by many middle class Americans, the love affair has ended badly for many if not most of these people. We can remember the anger that developed during the bank bailouts while struggling homeowners received much less help.

When the public learned that many of the same financial institutions that received help were giving executives huge bonuses, the anger only grew. The news of swindlers like Ponzi scheme artist Bernie Madoff helped to create a new image of the Wall St. trader.

Then, there was the news that a Detroit auto executive looking for a taxpayer bailout had flown to hearings in DC on a corporate jet.

At the height of the furor, there were even reports that Wall St. traders were arming themselves against the threats of disgruntled investors.

In some more recent news, we have heard that the Federal Reserve is looking to cover banks with lots of bad mortgages. Currently, many adjustable rate mortgages from the Bush era are resetting to much higher rates, and the rate of foreclosure is rising rapidly. Yet, most of the rescue action that we see is coming from the central bank on behalf of fellow bankers.

The days of "greed is good" seem long gone now, at least in the current economic environment.

Many Democrats had thought that the economy or the outlandish candidates and behavior of the Tea Party would be the issue that would drive people to the polls. Certainly the economy remains an important factor that is connected directly with the anger at corporate America.

However, Tea Party candidates have been careful to distance themselves from past rhetoric, and the mainstream Republicans have tried to separate themselves from the Tea faction.

What seems to have been underestimated is the resentment held by many Americans against big corporations. While the Tea Party can, at best, be seen as a threat, many Americans already feel victimized by Wall St. and big business. So, the idea that corporations are secretly manipulating elections is like the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

While Republicans and business leaders have been complaining that President Obama is "anti-business," the fact is that Obama may not even be coming close to representing American anger at big corporations.

Democrats would be wise to follow Sen. Russ Feingold's example and to continue to ask independent campaign committees to disclose their corporate donors, so Americans will know who is funding all the campaign ads currently bombarding the airwaves.

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Anonymous (2010-10-15 11:53:39)

The supreme court decision to allow unlimited contributions to electoral campaigns and candidates is unjust, unfair and wrong. It greatly favours the republican party and their friends on Wall Street. You don't have to be a genius in economics to know that. They're the party of big money. Will this shameful unfairness go on forever now? This needs to be fixed! No foreign contributions should be allowed; this is an american election. Contributions over 5000 dollars (pick a number) should be reported and recorded for tabulation and information or are some people afraid of that? Maybe they should be! Let's keep it open and fair for everybody

Committing to Vote (2010-10-17 15:57)

First Lady Michelle Obama sent out a letter today to members of the barackobama.com mail list (Organizing for America) providing a link to a new challenge they are putting out to volunteers:

<http://my.barackobama.com/CommitChallenge>

At the page, you can give a reason as to why you are committing to vote on Nov. 2. You can share your reason with other friends and also compete with friends on OFA to see who can get the most people to commit to vote. Here's the letter from Michelle Obama:

Friend –
None of us can sit this election out.
Not when we're just beginning to see the results of the change we've all been working for, and when there's still so much left to do.
That's why this election is so important, and that's why we can't let complacency overtake us in these last few weeks.
Of course, you and I already know this. You've already committed to get out and vote. But with so much at stake, we need to make sure your friends and family are planning to get out and vote too. And the best person in the world for that job is you.
That's why, today, OFA is launching its Commit to Vote Challenge to help you reach out, get your friends signed up to vote, and have some fun along the way.
Start inspiring your friends to commit to vote.
We know from Barack's campaign that when you get someone to make a commitment, they're far more likely to follow through.
So OFA is making it as easy as possible for you to get everyone you know to commit to going to the polls this year.
By taking part in this challenge – and getting commitments from 5, 10, 30, or more of the folks you're close to – you'll get us even closer to victory on November 2nd. And you'll see who among your friends can inspire the greatest number of people to commit.
Every year, elections across the country are decided by the slimmest of margins. If we all get the people we know to commit to voting, we can change the outcomes of elections all over the country and continue to build the kind of future we want for ourselves and for our children.
There's more information about the challenge at OFA's Vote 2010 website. Let's get started today:
<http://my.barackobama.com/CommitChallenge>
Thanks so much,
Michelle

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rock the Vote Videos (2010-10-18 15:33)

The Rock the Vote website has a number of videos designed to appeal to young people in encouraging them to vote.

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

[EMBED]

YouTube allows you to link to or to embed all of these videos on your blog or site, or to share them on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. You can also drive them up in the YouTube rankings by liking the videos and adding them as favorites.

Rock the Vote page: <http://www.rockthevote.com/vote-fearlessly/videos.html>

On YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rockthevote>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



'All hands on deck' (2010-10-19 17:06)

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle released a video today asking supporters to volunteer for the big four day get out the vote push prior to Nov. 2

[EMBED]

During the last four days before an election, all supporters are needed to phone voters, walk door-to-door and participate in other activities that remind people that the election is coming up.

I've checked many different sources and it appears that any enthusiasm gap, at least among netroots Dems on the national level, is gone. However, the online activity in individual local races varies widely.

With two weeks left before the polls, I do see lots of excitement starting to generate among the activists. Election day will show how well this has worked in getting voters energized.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



35,000 rally behind Barack and Michelle in Ohio (2010-10-20 15:06)

More evidence that the "enthusiasm gap" is a thing of the past. A crowd of 35,000 people gathered in Ohio to see President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle.

[EMBED]

Armies of volunteers will get people out to vote in the election. Really only Barack and Michelle can rally the people on this scale.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Early voting looking good for Democrats (2010-10-21 16:39)

If you're bummed about the media spinning a few selected polls into a landslide for the GOP, there is some heartening news to report.

The early voting, which is actual ballots that are being cast, shows that Democrats are doing very well. Many states have already started early voting, and more will open up their polls soon.

Some of these states actually break up the ballots in a way that allows us to know how many are Democratic and how many are Republican. Here are the states that we know about so far (note that early voting is not complete in these states):

Iowa: About 46 % Democrat to 38 % Republicans early ballots.

Maine: Things are roughly even between Democrats and Republicans.

North Carolina: Democrats have about 44 % of votes compared to 39 % for the GOP.

Maryland: About 59 % Democrat vs. 31 % Republican.

Ohio: Democrats leading at 59 % to 26 % in Cuyahoga County, while Republicans lead 42 % to 33 % in Hamilton County. In Franklin County, things are tied.

Louisiana: Democrats leading 46.6 % to 42.7 %.

Nevada: In Clarke County, Democrats are leading by a substantial margin, but well behind in much smaller Washoe County.

The main exception has been in Colorado where Republicans lead by 41.8 % to 36.5 %.

Again, this is good news because these are votes that are cast and cannot be changed. Of course, we cannot assume that all Democratic ballots translate into votes for all the Democratic candidates. Some states like Ohio, for example, are known for Democratic swing voters.

However, historically speaking Democrats turn out in lower numbers for early voting especially during the mid-term elections. So, this is good news indeed everything else being equal.

Also, with a large number of Democrats voting early it will make things easier in getting out the vote further down the road toward election day. Smart campaigns will not bother contacting those people who have already voted. The data provides further positive evidence that the so-called "enthusiasm gap" may be exaggerated.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Get Early Voting Info from OFA (2010-10-23 14:47)

X

Early voting is available in many states. To find out if there is early voting in your state, click on this link:

<http://www.raiseyourvote.com/>

By voting early or getting other people to vote early, you don't risk not being able to cast your vote on election day!

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Early voting campaign hits Facebook, social media (2010-10-24 14:19)

The early voting push has really caught on judging from Facebook. A new application called the Commit to Vote Challenge is plastering walls all over that social media site.

And the Democratic Party is actively pushing early voting too on its official site and on its social media pages.

A good move when you consider how difficult a job getting out the vote on election day is. Even the best planned voter turnout operation can fail if, for example, rain happens to be falling on election day in the local area. Even a drizzle can sometimes manage to depress voter participation.

So, getting votes in the bank before election day is a very sound strategy. It makes things easier when Nov. 2 finally comes.

Information on early voting

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Democrats save big bucks for late surge (2010-10-25 17:10)

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), the official group charged with maintaining Democratic control of the House of Representatives, is well ahead in the money race.

Saving their funds for the last rounds of the campaign, the DCCC entered into October with more than twice the cash as its Republican counterpart, the NRCC. The Democrats plan on spending about \$40 million in TV ads and another \$20 million on get out the vote (GOTV) operations in the final weeks leading to the Nov. 2 election.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Real People vs. Corporations (2010-10-26 12:44)

The current election pits real folks against the big corporation world probably more than any other.

While the Obama presidential campaign brought about an unprecedented grassroots movement, big corporations at the time were restricted by the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law.

However, the recent fallacious Supreme Court ruling has created a new environment in which big business can freely and anonymously contribute to independent political committees like those run by Karl Rove (ex-Bush chief of staff). Corporations and super-wealthy individuals are contributing in vast sums to these groups and to the Tea Party. These conservative political committees are not opening up their contributor lists like their progressive counterparts. They don't want the public seeing how a relatively small group of super-rich entities are influencing the elections.

Despite all the talk about "socialism" by Tea Partiers, the official statistics show a far different story. What the actual evidence shows is that the very wealthy have been moving up while everyone else has moving down creating historic income disparities.

Although the task looks daunting, ordinary folk can definitely defeat the big bucks of corporate America. If they put their minds to it, millions of people can create a wave that will overwhelm all the TV ads that could possible broadcast on the networks.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sign up for GOTV in last four days! (2010-10-26 20:47)

The last four days of the election are crucial in getting Democratic and progressive voters to the polls.

To volunteer for phone work, door-to-door canvassing, or other activities, fill out the volunteer form at barack-obama.com:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/GOTVolunteer2/>

On election day itself, the campaigns will conduct what is known as "the chase" in which they check voter rolls to ensure that all supporters have cast their ballots. If they find someone who hasn't voted, they call that person to ask if they plan on voting or if they need assistance getting to their polling stations.

[EMBED]

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On Polls and Early Voting (2010-10-27 13:21)

Lots of back and forth debate on websites, blogs, etc. over the meaning of the early voting statistics and their relationship to polling data.

One fallacious approach encountered in the discussion is comparing the early voting data to the 2008 or even the 2006 election. In both those elections, and particularly in 2008, Democrats won by landslides. In 2008, President Barack Obama won in states that many thought had been permanently lost to Republicans. Large numbers of Republican elected officials, many of them holding office for long periods, were unseated in both the House and Senate.

GOP usually leads GOTV

Normally, Democrats do not perform as well in early voting or in voter turnout (GOTV) as the Republicans. In fact, this is one reason that the GOP is able to stay competitive despite overall lower numbers of voters registered as Republican as compared to Democrat.

However, in 2008, Democrats crushed Republicans in early voting and GOTV allowing them to beat out many incumbents. Defeating sitting elected officials is generally very difficult. They have natural advantages in name recognition, press coverage, government-sponsored outreach, etc. However, the Dems led in practically every statistic related to winning a campaign including leading in the polls.

Now, this time around pollsters are suggesting that the opposite will occur – that the GOP will unseat large numbers of Democratic incumbents in both the House and Senate – and particularly in the former.

If that were the case, then it would be fair to expect early voting stats to greatly favor Republicans as they favored Democrats in 2008.

Democrats lead in 2010 early voting

The data, so far, though shows Democrats leading overall in those states that conduct early voting. They are not leading in every state, but they are more than holding their own when everything is taken together.

That really does not bode well for unseating large numbers of Democratic incumbents. However, it is not only early voting that shows a disconnect with the polling data.

For example, in 2008 Democrats were much more active online using "netroots" campaigning. Barack Obama's website was far more active than that of John McCain's, for instance.

Just a few months ago, the GOP and Tea Party did indeed appear to be taking over the internet based on a wide variety of statistics. However, lately that has turned around entirely. Formerly, for example, a YouTube video from OFA would be bombarded by negative comments from Tea Party sympathizers and rated lowly because of much larger numbers of "dislikes." But now the situation has flopped totally in favor of the Democrats.

Dems also hold fundraising lead

In fundraising also, the Democrats wiped the floor with the GOP in 2008 although this is traditionally an area of strength for Republicans. If we are to expect a Dem bloodbath this time around, then shouldn't GOP treasure chests be much larger in the same way that Democratic coffers were in 2008? In fact, the official Democratic campaign committees are raising more money than their GOP counterparts.

The Republicans are benefiting from independent groups receiving donations from large corporations, but its

questionable whether that is giving them a significant edge. The conservative groups are at least partially offset by labor unions and progressive spending from groups like MoveOn.org and Emily's List.



Sen. Barbara Boxer's supporters in California have been very active showing up not only for Boxer events, but also establishing a strong presence at the events of her opponent Carly Fiorina. (Source: <http://www.examiner.com/political-buzz-in-national/the-latest-polling-data-for-key-races-the-2010-midterm-elections-picture-51?slide=24390041#main>) **Weak points in surveys**

The discrepancy between the surveys and all the rest of the evidence may lie in weaknesses that polls have in predicting minority and youth turnout. These two demographics traditionally favor Democrats, but both are underrepresented in surveys for a variety of reasons.

When we look at the large turnout at Obama rallies, including about 37,000 recently in Southern California, it is hard to imagine that there is a substantial "enthusiasm gap." Indeed, the Democrats appear to be turning out in larger numbers overall for these types of public events than Republicans.

The election, of course, will show us whether the survey data was correct. There is also a possibility that polls will show races tightening dramatically in the last few days before the election.

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Kal Penn on the importance of voting (2010-10-28 16:48)

KKal Penn, the former actor who played "Kumar" in the "Harold and Kumar" series of movies talks about the importance of voting this coming Nov. 2

[EMBED]

Penn worked as Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement in the Obama administration until June of this year.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Undecided voters still undecided (2010-10-28 16:58)

Yes, there are still many undecided voters out there, some of who have not even looked over the candidates or issues yet.

Normally, these voters, or at least a very significant portion of them, do not make a final decision until the last day. Some even struggle with their decisions in the voting booth.

Of course, this is a good time to use one's powers of persuasion whether that involves discussing the election with family, friends or others that you know personally, or making "cold calls" by knocking on doors and making phone calls.

You can also provide information electronically through email or via social media.

[EMBED]

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(2010-10-28 19:05)



Nationwide weather forecast for Election Day (2010-10-29 13:30)

Ok the current weather forecast shows rain for areas of the coastal southern and eastern mainland.



Trick here is to vote early, but in states like Pennsylvania that will not be an option. Another thing that can be done is to plan carpools with friends and/or family to the polls now.

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Video the Vote (2010-10-29 19:52)

[EMBED]

Nice video from <http://videothevote.org/> on recent instances in which attempts were made to prevent or dissuade minorities and young people from voting. The video can also remind us that really it wasn't that long ago historically when women and minorities were not even allowed to vote. Good video to pass along.

Also the videothevote.org/ site is designed to allow you to document the election in your local area by taking video clips and uploading them to their archives.

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Nouriel Roubini sees doom if GOP takes power (2010-10-30 05:52)

Prof. Nouriel Roubini was one of only a very few national economists who accurately predicted the housing meltdown and resulting deep recession. A professor of economics at New York University, Roubini has been described as "a

prophet” at the IMF and was rated number 4 in *Foreign Policy* journal’s Top 100 Global Thinkers. In an opinion piece for the Financial Times, Roubini credits the Obama administration’s stimulus plan with preventing another Great Depression. However he warns that if Congress becomes dominated by the Republicans as some are predicting, we could be headed for more economic gloom.

He said the U.S. remains on an “unsustainable fiscal course” and the likely make-up of Congress after elections next Tuesday, in which the Republicans look set for strong gains, virtually takes fiscal reform off the agenda.

The resulting instability could be aggravated by a trigger mechanism according to Roubini including a state government going into debt default.

”The worst of the coming fiscal train wreck will be prevented by the Fed’s easing. But the risk is (Obama) ... will then preside over ... a Japanese style stagnation, where growth is barely positive, and deflationary pressures and high unemployment linger.”

Reading over the GOP “Pledge to America,” one is hard pressed to find any fault in Roubini’s reasoning. The Republicans are basically promising the same types of economic strategies that got us into this mess in the first place.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Vote Dem #VoteDem (2010-10-30 13:27)

Vote Dem is the GOTV message that the DCCC is using on Facebook:

A graphic with the words "VOTE DEM" in large, bold, stylized letters. "VOTE" is red with a white outline, and "DEM" is blue with a white outline. Below this, the date "NOVEMBER 2, 2010" is written in red, smaller capital letters.

The hashtag #VoteDem is also gaining a lot of ground on Twitter. Whenever you tweet about campaign or election related stuff you can add the #VoteDem hashtag if you have space to help push this up into the top trending topics.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Working the Demographics (2010-10-31 07:31)

Democrats are making a lot of effort now to get certain demographic groups like minorities and young voters to the polls.

Unfortunately, there is a tendency among these groups to miss the importance of smaller elections. Part of it could be election overload with so many choices on the ballot that people trying to make ends meet can hardly keep up with.

A number of voting guides exist that can help voters quickly decide on candidates and issues. The Progressive Voters Guide offered by Courage Campaign lists endorsements from progressive groups like the state Democratic Party, the League of Women Voters and labor organizations.

SmartVoter is a more neutral website that allows candidates and issue committees to put up their own informational pages.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Encouraging News from the Field and from Early Voting (2010-10-31 19:08)

OFA Director Jon Stewart spoke on MSNBC about the Democratic turnout in early voting and the enthusiasm in volunteer activity:

[EMBED]

Democrats continue to outperform Republicans in early voting including leading in important states with lots of House seats like California, Illinois and Ohio.

Gov. Ed Rendell said that in Pennsylvania there would be major surprises on election day. Rendell said that in the last two weeks, Democrats in his state had closed the "enthusiasm gap."

Of course, election day is still very important and will account for the bulk of voting in most states. GOTV efforts so far are going at a fast pace with groups like Organizing for America contacting massive numbers of voters.

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X

4.11 November

Last Two Days (2010-11-01 13:07)

The last two days are easily the most important of the election. As any event organizer would know reminding people the day before an event and, if possible, the day of an event is generally essential for a good turnout.

Many campaigns will go all out chasing down people on voter rolls who have not voted. Of course, the campaigns will only encourage those people who they think are supportive of their cause.

Some people even up to today still don't know that there is election going on tomorrow. Spread the word!

X

Plan Your Trip to the Polls

my.democrats.org

Take 60 seconds to fill out a simple form to plan your trip to the polling place to get a reminder on Election Day to vote.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Trending Topics and Searches on Election Day (2010-11-02 06:14)

Polls are already open in many parts of the country.

For those on Twitter, several election-related topics are currently trending including #govote, #electionday, "Election Night" and "Democratic Party." The Washington Post is also sponsoring the topic #election.

On Google, hot searches are related to people apparently trying to find out where to vote. The only hot topic in the top 10 is "California elections."

Note that these states allow voter registration on Election Day: Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Washington DC.

To find polling locations, visit this URL:

<http://pollingplaces.raiseyourvote.com/>

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Crunch Time (2010-11-02 13:18)

As more people are getting off work on the eastern coast of the country, polls are beginning to jam up with voters. Most problems with long lines, running out of ballots, etc. tends to happen in that area as huge numbers of people wait until this time to vote.

Google has a great tool that will furnish a map, driving/transportation directions and even candidate information and local election office information:

<http://maps.google.com/vote>

In the directions section under Options, you can choose routes that avoid highways and toll booths.

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Lessons to learn from the Election (2010-11-03 21:54)

Yesterday's election resulted in the Republicans winning the House and the majority of governorships. The Democrats managed to retain leadership of the Senate but losing probably six seats in the process.

While the results were generally bad for Democrats, there were also some bright spots at least when taken against the dire predictions made before election day. For example, Colorado, a traditional swing state, saw Democrats win both the senate and governor's races. Oregon will likely remain out of the swing state category, as in 2008, as Democrats won both the senate and governor's races in that state.

There are also valuable lessons to learn as Democrats prepare for 2012 and beyond.

- The Supreme Court's change of campaign financing laws was a surprise for Democrats and one that they did not have sufficient time to prepare for. Corporations poured huge sums of money anonymously into independent groups that supported Republican candidates. Democrats now have more time to raise money and figure out ways to counter GOP money. Note that even huge amounts of cash did not help Meg Whitman, Carly Fiorina or Texas oil-backed Proposition 23 in California. However, good grassroots organizing must be very thorough using both old school and new school strategies. The network should be activated early enough to allow a truly deep-reaching machine to self-organize. Give them the freedom to do what they're good at and enjoy rather than forcing them into traditional campaign work, which is not for everybody.
- Rather embarrassing that a party that depends so much on minority and women voters appears to have been outdone in respect to candidate diversity by Republicans and the Tea Party! The latter in particular fielded many women and minority candidates. Furthermore, they gave strong support to these candidates. The Democrats seem to have had either a lukewarm or hands-off approach to many of their minority candidates even after they had become nominees. They are back to their old insider game when what had worked for Obama's 2008 campaign was the inclusive approach. This election we saw the nation's first Latina governor and the first Indian American woman governor elected running as Republicans! All three winning Latino governors are GOP and the only Latino senatorial candidate to win was Marco Rubio in Florida. Many prominent women were fielded by the Tea Party although the most publicized races ended for them in defeat.
- Where are Democrats hiding the progressive wing and Dr. Howard Dean? The blue dogs need to eat some humble pie and restore these folk back into the fold. These are the people that won the nomination for Obama and played a large role in his election win. Yet they now seem forced to operate along the periphery.
- Voters in many states simply were expressing their anger at the economy by "kicking the bums out." That might swing back against the GOP come 2012 for a variety of reasons. For example, by around June of next year federal stimulus money to state and local governments will begin to shrink and will continue to decline until 2016. However, the revenues of those governments have generally not been growing enough to keep up with things like inflation and interest rates on debts. So, the state and local governments are unlikely to be able to handle the new budget stress. That means that they will be forced to layoff employees and cut government contracts unless new money is approved by the federal government. In fact, even with the current rising-rate federal aid we have seen that many of these smaller governments have still taken drastic action. The problem for the Republicans is there is strong opposition to any further stimulus spending, and this obviously could backfire against the GOP in working class areas of swing states like Ohio and Pennsylvania.
- What happened to the 50 state strategy? Everyone promised Dean when he resigned that they would continue to implement this sound approach. Were they simply getting him to move his stuff out faster? The folks now using the 50 state party are the Tea Party, which is one factor behind their phenomenal, if uneven, success. During the height of the Obama campaign, Democrats and other supporters from Idaho to the Deep South felt like part of the team. But again we've moved back to the insider game and people in the "boondocks" party-wise are likely to get ignored.

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– (2010-11-16 21:40:11)

The real lesson learned is that Obama needs to communicate to people a lot more. It is not enough to get out and talk to people in the last few weeks. <http://www.EZObama.com>

Mr. Kowalski (2010-11-19 17:47:18)

The lesson is that instead of fixing the economy he shoved ObamaCare down our throats. It was not what the people wanted. Communicating it better won't change this. Liberals always assume they're right and that if only the stupid people would understand they'd all be Democrats. It's arrogant, and he paid the price.

Socxs (2010-11-24 10:46:08)

hi

Anonymous (2010-12-16 10:45:09)

Obama needs to stop reading his speeches line for line, its annoying watching him look down twice a sentence. Bush might not be a great speaker but at least he doesn't read the whole thing, slowly and painfully. Obama might seem like he believes, or even knows, what he is talking about if he can give a speech without reading it. If you believe and are passionate about what you say, you don't have to read it... it's funny when he uses his line ending tone in the middle of a sentence because he didn't read the sentence far enough ahead of time... haha

2012 Election Strategy (2010-11-29 20:08)



President Obama calls for a two-year freeze on civilian pay for federal employees from the White House, November 29, 2010. (Credit: CBS)

After checking out all the post-election analysis and giving it a bit more thought, here's my view on how President Barack Obama and the Democrats can win the 2012 election.

The exit polls suggest that, if we accept the 2010 election as a referendum on Obama, then the president lost none of his core support groups except women who voted about evenly for Democrats and Republicans. Other constituencies like progressives, minorities, young people and LGBT supported Democrats. The problem is that many of these folk simply did not show up to vote. That would not be so bad if the turnout was low compared to the 2008 election since mid-terms generally create less excitement than presidential elections. However, the turnout was even low compared to the 2006 mid-terms.

Energizing the base

The GOP and Tea Party took a page out to the Democrat's 2008 strategy and made a great effort to field diverse candidates in 2010. You can rest assured that the unusually large number of Republican women and minority candidates did not just appear coincidentally.

One reason, I think, that the women's vote shifted more toward the Republicans is the large number of prominent women candidates fielded by that party. They were all over the news even if not always portrayed in a positive light. While these women could not hope to attract progressive women voters due to their often very conservative viewpoints, they might have had an impact on moderate and independent women voters.

Democrats will have to do a better job at this nationwide in 2012. In California, Dems swept the statewide offices

and picked up one state assembly seat while successfully preventing any GOP pickups in the state senate or US House. Here, Sen. Barbara Boxer and state Attorney General-elect Kamala Harris were among the most prominent candidates. Boxer additionally is of Jewish descent, while Harris becomes, at the same time, the first woman, African American, Asian American and Indo-American attorney general in California. Additionally there were other winning statewide candidates like Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Controller John Chiang. The candidates for the both chambers of the state legislature were highly diverse.

Rather than relying on Barack Obama alone to energize voters and volunteers, the Democrats should groom attractive candidates at all levels – candidates that represent the change that voters are looking for.

Winning Congress

A good turnout of Obama's core constituencies in urban areas like Philadelphia, Detroit, Miami and Las Vegas may be enough to get the necessary electoral votes. However, the urban vote may not be enough to defend the Senate or to win back the House.

Right now, it's difficult to say whether Obama's coattails will help carry Democrats in heavily-independent areas. Many parts of the country have gone red to the core with GOP state legislatures in addition to the congressional caucuses. So if things aren't quite what they would like in 2012, there may be some backlash against the Republicans in these states, or at least the GOP may be held equally responsible for the state of affairs.

However, Democrats would be wise to at least try and win back the women's vote in 2012. Again, they can do this by putting forth exciting women candidates. They should also attempt to convince women in the administration like Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Tammy Duckworth to get out on the campaign trail.

Winning the media battle

After the 2008 election, the Tea Party grabbed the media spotlight and did not let go. At best the Democrats came back only in the last few months of the 2010 campaign.

By that time, many people had already been soured by Tea Party and GOP disinformation. The president needs to get into the role of theater politician and work the media to the fullest. He should also concentrate on minority, special interest and other small media outlets in the same way he did during 2008.

In addition, high profile officials like Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden should also work the media extensively. First Lady Michelle Obama is already a media star and hopefully she will continue to help Democrats by playing a key role in interfacing with the public.

Rebuilding the Obama army

Many young people who worked for the president in 2008 were cut loose after the election and were disappointed to see the administration filled up with old faces.

While there was an argument for bringing in experience, many were expecting the administration to be dominated by new "change" people.

President Obama can still fill up his White House team, despite GOP obstructionism, by making abundant recess appointments all the way until 2012.

Democrats will need to rebuild linkages with existing networks. For example, during 2008 the campaign did great work in reaching out to African American churches. Students for Obama was a self-organized group that was part of the draft Obama movement and did much-needed work in getting out the youth vote. When it was learned that elderly Jews in Florida were not sure about the candidate from Illinois, a large number of young Jews undertook the "Great Schlep" to convince them they could trust Obama.

Working with existing networks and organizations was a hallmark of the Obama campaign.

Democrats will need to fight for the issues that got them elected in 2008. They can no longer allow themselves to stumble around GOP obstacles. The public expects them to show leadership and make the necessary adjustments in their governing strategy to get things done.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

I really like your site. Excellent content. Please continue posting such profound cotent.

I think I ate dinner with Barack & Michelle (right across the dinner table) back in '85 or '86 at the Univ. Wisc. Stevens Point, at a conference of African American students and African (foreign) students.

Just curious...what did the word "change" mean to you? I don't think most people had a clue. His approval ratings are going down every day. Before the President focuses on his national campaign for 2012, I think he better worry about wrapping up his own party's primary nomination. A lot of Americans were caught up with his energetic rhetoric, but now have realized his inexperience has trumped his speaking abilities.

<http://keithpriceisright.blogspot.com/>

hello m,r presendent.please hspeak arabic:

Thanks for the great post.

Election 2012 is far different from Election 2008. Obama will have a harder time convincing voters to vote for him once again although he was not the one who led America into the economic mess it has gotten into since 2007. Fact is people are just impatient with the pace of the economic recovery and tired of political bickering in Washington. What Obama must hope for 2012 is that Republicans could nominate somebody who will scare away independents from the GOP and vote for him with reservations instead.

5. 2011

5.1 January

Polls favoring Obama so far for 2012 (2011-01-02 16:46)

Although President Barack Obama's average approval ratings are still about five percentage points below 50 percent, he still looks in relatively good standing for the 2012 election.

No serious candidates have expressed interest in running against Obama in the primary and most possible contenders have publicly ruled out any challenge.

Recent nationwide polls show Obama leading the GOP field of candidates, but even more importantly the president is doing very well in a recent series of state polls by PPP. The structure of the electoral college makes the state-to-state races more important than the nationwide vote.

Obama lead PPP polls in Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin and even in North Carolina, which the president won in a close race in 2008.

Another reason to be optimistic is the current field of Republican prospects all have serious weaknesses that tend to favor the president. Palin still looks like the strongest of the bunch although the mainstream GOP seems to be leaning toward Romney.

[EMBED]

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2011-01-03 10:49:00)

By 2012, The National Popular Vote bill could guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC).

Every vote, everywhere, would be politically relevant and equal in presidential elections. Elections wouldn't be about winning states. No more distorting and divisive red and blue state maps. Every vote, everywhere would be counted for and directly assist the candidate for whom it was cast. Candidates would need to care about voters across the nation, not just undecided voters in a handful of swing states.

The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538). When the bill comes into effect, all the electoral votes from those states would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and DC).

The bill uses the power given to each state by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution to change how they award their electoral votes for president.

In Gallup polls since 1944, only about 20 % of the public has supported the current system of awarding all of a state's electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the most votes in each separate state (with about 70 % opposed and about 10 % undecided). Support for a national popular vote is strong in virtually every state, partisan, and demographic group surveyed in recent polls in closely divided battleground states: CO- 68 %, IA -75 %, MI- 73 %, MO- 70 %, NH- 69 %, NV- 72 %, NM- 76 %, NC- 74 %, OH- 70 %, PA — 78 %, VA — 74 %, and WI — 71 %; in smaller states (3 to 5 electoral votes): AK - 70 %, DC - 76 %, DE -75 %, ME — 77 %, NE — 74 %, NH -69 %, NV — 72 %, NM — 76 %, RI — 74 %, and VT — 75 %; in Southern and border states: AR -80 %, KY — 80 %, MS -77 %, MO — 70 %, NC — 74 %, and VA — 74 %; and in other states polled: CA — 70 %, CT — 74 %, MA — 73 %, MN - 75 %, NY — 79 %, WA — 77 %, and WV- 81 %.

The bill has passed 31 state legislative chambers, in 21 small, medium-small, medium, and large states, including one house in AR, CT, DE, DC, ME, MI, NV, NM, NY, NC, and OR, and both houses in CA, CO, HI, IL, NJ, MD, MA ,RI, VT, and WA . The bill has been enacted by DC, HI, IL, NJ, MD, MA, and WA. These 7 states possess 76 electoral votes — 28 % of the 270 necessary to

bring the law into effect.

<http://www.NationalPopularVote.com>

Susan Burns (2011-01-03 17:17:51)

It is hard to understand why so many people do not think President Obama has exceptional character. Whenever he leaves office, he will continue to do great things. Unlike Reagan and Bush (both).

Anonymous (2011-01-19 13:40:54)

Some decent tips. Very well considered

Anonymous (2011-01-19 14:42:55)

Discovered this page truly when it was needed. Thank you very much. It's been incredibly helpful

nursingstikes (2011-02-12 07:01:16)

"Polls favoring Obama so far for 2012"

Blog helpful please visit nursingstikes or to <http://stikeshealthnurse.blogspot.com>

Dr. Michael D. Evans (2011-03-11 22:53:03)

People have different reasons on what they think about Obama, to each his own.

Dr. Michael D. Evans (2011-03-11 22:54:11)

People have different views on what they think about Obama, to each his own.

vilka80 (2011-03-20 10:22:19)

Обама, сука черная, какого хера ты со своими ублюдками ООНавцами и своими порядками лезешь в чужую страну, вали нахуй из Ливии черножопая обезьяна!!!!

5.2 March

Obama continues to lead 2012 polls (2011-03-18 17:36)

The series of presidential polls by PPP in single states and nationwide continue to show that President Barack Obama is in good position although it still quite early.

The most recent polls show Republican hopefuls trailing Obama in Maine and Ohio and also in a nationwide poll released on March 16. Other nationwide surveys conducted by other polling agencies tend to agree with the PPP results.

Still very early to say whether Obama can help pull up other Democratic candidates including those running for Congress. The approval ratings for Congress are still very low and this could translate into Democrats retaking the House but losing the Senate.

The reasoning is fairly simple as there are more GOP incumbents in the House but more Democrats up for reelection in the Senate. If the "kick the bums out" attitude prevails that might lead to a switch in leadership in each chamber of Congress.

Democrats can hope that Obama's coattails will help them keep hold of Senate while winning back the House. The president enjoys much higher approval ratings as compared with those in Congress. The RealClearPolitics average of polls gives Obama a 49.1 percent approval as compared to 46.1 disapproval rating. He has a positive approval rating in seven of the last eight polls and is above 50 percent approval in four of the polls.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



5.3 April

Obama campaign mobilizes, GOP still gun shy (2011-04-10 19:37)

The Obama 2012 campaign is now on even though the Republican hopefuls are still mostly not ready to commit to their candidacies. Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is the only one of those considered as serious contenders to file an exploratory committee.

Against a tough incumbent like President Obama, one would think that prospective candidates would like to get started early especially in the fundraising department.

Earlier polls have shown Obama is leading in the important swing states and the most recent PPP polls in Florida and New Hampshire continue the same trend. Only Mitt Romney seems to pose a threat although a lot can change by election time in November 2012.

The GOP state polls show Romney leading in New Hampshire with Donald Trump close behind. Mike Huckabee was ahead in Iowa and South Carolina although those polls did not include Trump in the field of candidates.

A more recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll shows Mike Huckabee and Donald Trump tied at the front of the GOP pack. Trump though has not performed well in polls matched against Obama.

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Budget battle to influence 2012 polls? (2011-04-17 12:17)

The present long-term budget plan could have an important impact on the 2012 elections for president and for Congress.

Voters will be able to get an idea of where each political party stands from the 10 year budgets crafted by President Obama for the Democrats and Rep. Paul Ryan for the Republicans.

For example, the GOP could lose support from senior citizens due to the suggested cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Obama is retuning to suggestions for an end to tax breaks for wealthy Americans and to tax loopholes for the rich and for corporations. That possibly could lose him support among richer voters and among the pro-business independents.

Of course, we still must wait and see how the budget plans of each side change as negotiations progress.

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Jim Messina: 2012 Campaign Strategy (2011-04-25 13:51)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/PH0fiMGvW2k>

Obama campaign manager Jim Messina talks about the 2012 presidential campaign.

The plan is to create a new campaign even more bold than in the 2008 election. The steps are to listen and plan, build teams and then to contact voters. They plan to contact using every type of communication: canvassing, phones, social media, email, personal networking, etc.

BarackObama.com and Facebook apparently will be the central online points coordinating the effort until offices are in place much later – probably sometime in 2012.

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Dr. Michael D. Evans (2011-04-26 01:38:57)

That's a good strategy. Let's see how that works.

Katalog firm (2011-05-04 21:48:23)

Obama is good president, mayby sometimes is a bit nervous

Anonymous (2011-08-11 19:35:27)

I did not realize so many people in this great country believe in socialism and entitlements. BHO has destroyed the idea of capitalism with his restrictive rules that have strangled business. and his ideas of redistribution of wealth are not what made this country great

5.4 May

First GOP presidential debate tonight (2011-05-05 20:21)

Another sign of the disarray in the GOP primary is the first debate tonight in South Carolina.

None of the frontrunners are participating. The candidates who will be present are: Gary Johnson, Herman Cain, Rick Santorum, Ron Paul and Tim Pawlenty.

Looks like we will have to wait until maybe July before things really start to pick up in that primary race.

The debate is on Fox News and you the Democratic Party will be fact checking the candidates at this site:

http://www.democrats.org/news/may5debate/?source=DNC_FB

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Obama approval rating jumps after Osama bin Laden operation (2011-05-10 19:44)

The successful operation taking out al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has apparently boosted up President Barack Obama's approval ratings.

According the RealClearPolitics average of recent polls, Obama is now standing at 51.7 % approval vs. 42.1 disapproval.

Just how long this approval bump will last is anyone's guess. Some analysts do not believe that it help voters forget about the economy for long. However, it may be a mistake to believe that Obama will suffer exclusively for a tough economy.

The public view of Republicans actions on the economy since their election victories in 2010 is not favorable.

Obama may benefit from simply having more recent tangible accomplishments than anyone from the current field of GOP opponents.

Tonight, Obama reportedly raised about \$2 million during fundraisers in Texas where the president is drumming support for immigration reform.

[EMBED]

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Mike Huckabee: Not running for president (2011-05-14 20:22)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/Yh2NRVLgniQ>

With Mike Huckabee dropping out of the GOP race, Mitt Romney is the only viable looking candidate that is officially considering a run.

Donald Trump and Sarah Palin will probably announce sometime in June whether they will run or not.

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Made in the USA (2011-05-18 19:24)

The Obama campaign is looking to raise some money after the recent birther fail brought about when the president revealed his long form birth certificate.

Using the theme "Made in the USA" speaking of the president himself, the campaign is offering a limited edition coffee mug:

Get your

2012 Made in the USA mug



Stay caffeinated for campaign events (and everything else) with a limited-edition Made in the USA mug. Donate \$15 or more to get yours.

[https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/o2012-made-in-the-usa-mug-am ?source=20110518_js_m_fb&src=abc](https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/o2012-made-in-the-usa-mug-am?source=20110518_js_m_fb&src=abc)

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X

(2011-05-27 19:09)

Interview: Maya Soetoro-Ng in YES! magazine (2011-05-28 15:36)

The YES! magazine website has a great article featuring an interview of Maya Soetoro-Ng on the influence of her mother on both her and her brother, President Barack Obama.

Soetoro-Ng is interviewed by Fred Korten, a co-worker of Ann Dunham Soetoro at the Ford Foundation in Jakarta in 1984. The interview mainly discusses Maya's new book, but it also gives some insight into the relationship of Ann with her children. It also furnishes an interesting look at the relationship between Maya and Barack.



Maya Soetoro-Ng with brother Barack and mother Ann.

Photo courtesy of Maya Soetoro-Ng

[Click here for YES! magazine story](#)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Я (2011-05-29 07:27:39)

<http://lookslikeoddblog.blogspot.com/2011/05/memoirs-of-bag.html>

Bama (2011-07-03 22:31:33)

Happy obama...my interestr

5.5 June

(2011-06-06 16:26)

Obama campaign looking to mobilize 2008 volunteers (2011-06-06 21:45)

President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign is making a push on social media to attract more volunteers to the campaign.

An ABC News article discusses whether or not the campaign will be able to attract back many of Obama's supporters from the 2008 campaign.

Some 1,600 new volunteers are expected to broadcast over Twitter to raise awareness of the campaign. The president already has more than 8.4 million Twitter followers – more than any other elected official. The campaign is promising to retweet the best tweets posted by Summer Organizers.

Last week, Obama added more than 162,000 new Twitter followers demonstrating the growing strength of volunteer

efforts.

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X

GOP primary candidates to meet in CNN debate (2011-06-13 16:03)

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/-GmCQnzSh7I>

Republican presidential hopefuls will be meeting in a CNN-sponsored debate tonight in New Hampshire. Two recent polls show that Mitt Romney is leading the pack of present contenders with Sarah Palin close behind. President Obama has no serious challengers on the Democratic side.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2011-06-16 06:32:35)

I do not agree with the assigation of Bin Laden. I am reasonably sure that we filmed every detail of this action as it went down. We should have fed it live to all media outlets as it happened for everyone to see a cowerd trapped in his hole. The seals could have turned him over to the Pakistan Government with a house arrest posting American guards on the house. We would have placed the responsibility for him onto the hands of the very people that say they are our allies. Killing this person just continued the horrendous barbarism we have become known for. We are poisoning our world with fear and hate for one reason, to keep the top dog nations in luxury at the expense of others.

I will not voluntarily support the war machine in any way. My president must stand above all and lead with a plan that ceases all arms production at all levels with out this America is destined to self-destruct through its greed to maintain it's unmaintainable life style.

Al Gore wants Obama to defend climate change action (2011-06-22 20:32)

Former vice president Al Gore will be hitting President Barack Obama on climate change in an upcoming article in Rolling Stone magazine.

First of all, Gore comes out an recognizes what Obama has done to reverse previous environmentally-destructive policies. Definitely the president has done quite a lot for green causes even though he has disappointed many on issues like coal and nuclear energy.

In fairness to Obama though, he has always supported "clean" coal along with nuclear energy if the storage problem could be solved. On these issues though the president seems to have capitulated in terms of specifics. For example, while there still is no long-term nuclear waste storage plan, the president is supporting loan guarantees for the building of new nuclear power plants.

One of the problems may be the tremendous pressure the president is facing due to the tough economy. Obama suffered a tough loss in Congress after the 2010 elections with Democrats losing control of the House and losing some important seats in the Senate.

On the subject of climate change, it seems as though the issue has been pushed to the sidelines. In this sense, Gore is right in that Obama no longer seems to publicly recognize climate change as an urgent issue. On the other hand though, Republicans have been denying the science altogether.

What can be done to get climate change back on President Obama's agenda with the UN's climate summit coming up in Durban, South Africa in late November?



IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/VV5JWOCg_ts

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2011-07-23 13:12:47)

i understand where obama is coming from with all the money that needs to be accounted for. but at the same time, we have spend 9 billion dollars so far with NASA. shutting it down is a waste of money and our time. if the government is so worried about money why not cut some of the earnings our government officials make. NASA is a must need in our society if we are to grow and evolve. without our space program we will be stuck further back in more debt and war.

Obama, Palin and Bachmann in Iowa on Tuesday (2011-06-25 21:41)

President Barack Obama and former Alaska governor Sarah Palin will both be in Iowa on Tuesday. Palin is coming for the opening of her new movie, but rumors have been circulating that she use the opportunity to announce her entry into the Republican primary.

Michelle Bachmann will also be in Iowa on that day, so we should expect a lot of press coverage from the state. Bachmann did very well in recent poll coming in just behind Mitt Romney. She will officially announce her candidacy on Tuesday.

The president will be in Iowa promoting American manufacturing – something that he has been talking about a lot about lately.

No one doubts that the economy is likely to be the issue for the 2012 election. I don't agree with the line of thought that has Obama taking all the blame if the economy sours. In my view, the voters are looking more for answers now rather than thinking of political parties to blame.

Whoever has ideas and a job-creating plan that will appeal to voters will have the best chance of attracting disgruntled voters in my view.



Sarah Palin in Philadelphia during her bus tour (Newscom photo)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✖

Obama Forum (2011-06-26 00:57:14)

Great!!! Love it. so what do you think about the next presidential election??? your idea count : say "yes" or "no" ..

Obama forum: <http://obamaforum.co.cc>

Mike (2011-07-01 04:54:02)

Looks like Obama's gonna need some help from the nicotine departement to be in the same city as Palin ;)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8e1Ovs0DTg>

Calgary Real Estate (2011-07-07 14:32:31)

I wish there was a democrat other than Obama running for president.

5.6 July

Obama rope a dope? (2011-07-12 20:28)

[EMBED]

Visit msnbc.com for breaking news, world news, and news about the economy

MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell has a rather complex "rope a dope" theory on President Barack Obama's negotiating stance in the debt ceiling-deficit talks.

Currently, Obama's deficit reduction plan goes further than even that suggested by House Speaker John Boehner! We will have to see whether O'Donnell is right about this being Obama luring the GOP into his trap.

It does seem that the tax hikes came out of nowhere sort of like Ali coming off the ropes in his epic fight with Foreman. According to this theory, Obama just has to take a certain position and the GOP will automatically rally against the position.

The fact that Obama is not willing to sign another extension shows that he is ready to call the Republicans bluff. The battle is coming to a head.

Republicans are not any more eager than Democrats to see budget funding dry up. They know that their own patrons will be some of the first to sound off when the subsidy checks don't arrive on time.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama addresses debt and deficit (2011-07-16 19:08)



IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/0c_7YJtw3BE

President Barack Obama kept the heat up on the Republicans during his weekend video address.

Obama has still said that he does not want to sign a short term extension of the debt ceiling. In an earlier press conference, he said that he would reform Medicare by implementing a means test to determine how much people should pay for medical bills.

The president insists that wealthy American and corporations should pay their fair share of taxes.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2011-07-17 02:38:24)

I agree with President Obama there should be a balance. I'm tired of them bullying the poor and stripping away their dignity and selfworth. What is the matter with the republicans with this foolery. The elite should be made to pay more taxes seems as though they want the rich to get richer and the poor to become even more poor. They are making a mockery of this country. They are not working for us they are working against us. They have closed facilities that the poor have used, taken away social security increases and they think it is okay to hit the poor again this is unacceptable. The poor are not havng it any more we are ready to take a stand and we will be heard. We need a homeostasis. This sounds like United States greed.

Inspector Clouseau (2011-07-17 09:59:15)

During the last Presidential election, CSpan2 Book TV aired a program where the author discussed the results of his or her research, which suggested that something like 5-10 % of Democrats , and 5-10 % of Republicans, essentially debated and defined the ideological constructs of each party. The point was that the vast, vast, vast majority of the citizens of this country have their lives dictated by the most active and vocal members of society, who also happen to be more privileged .

I strongly suspect that the same thing is occurring with the debt ceiling debate. The debate is not really about the debt ceiling per se, but rather a very deep, long-standing debate about the role and size of government. It's never been resolved, and never will be resolved in our representative democracy. However, in the mean time, the regular folks in our society run the risk of being irreparably damaged. The elites (the upper and upper middle socio-economic classes) on each side of the fence have theirs, their corporate contributions, decent jobs and income, and will fare just fine economically. It's the ordinary citizens (lower middle socio-economic class) who will most likely get screwed, no matter which side ultimately prevails in the short term.

tina (2011-07-17 15:37:28)

Obama how dare u beg the poor for money when u were campaigning u talked about the middle class u never mentioned the poor we didn't exist even though we elected u. You don't give a darned about the poor we know this because u never mention us I will honestly say that I did not vote for u because I knew that u didn't count me black people elected u poor black people

however I guess there's something to say for people being illiterate because these people only voted for u because u were black because the poor was never mentioned u champion people who make between hundred and twohundred thousand dollars a year what happened to the people who live off of less than twenty thousand a year we don't count even though we r the ones who got your ass elected u cut our food stamps our children's education while your wife and children travel the world and attend the best schools I guess there is something to say for illiteracy oh and being black cause that's how your ass got elected poor people will go for anything if its black even though u never once spoke about them we did not count I would rather have a white devil for president than a black one cause at least u know the white one is full of shit and had people really listened like I did they would have known u were too u were elected cause u were black but I can promise u because of your actions we will never another black president u ask the poor for money but u give us nothing no daybreak no help we r not even mentioned we don't count as far as reelection u can forget it we don't want u u don't care about us you r full of shit the poor needs someone to care about us but that's just wishful thinking and we r tired of paying for your kids education your wives designer clothes and your lavish travels I am going to do my best to see that u don't have a other term by making the poor realize that u don't give a darned about us although I'm almost positive they realize this u have thitysix million dollars in your war chest u need more don't ask the poor get it from your middle class u love them so much leave us alone like you've been doing after all we don't count

Anonymous (2011-07-20 11:22:14)

Hmmm, I may be naive, but logic tells me that if tax increases or no tax increases on the wealthy are tied to American job creation then both sides and the American people win. A corporation increases x % of its American workforce and they don't pay higher taxes. A corporation sends jobs overseas or excessive executive corporate salaries don't trickle down to American job creation, they pay more taxes.

Debt deal looks unlikely (2011-07-24 17:07)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/MPYC5SILAJk>

Despite last ditch efforts by the president to broker a deal on the debt ceiling, a bipartisan agreement now looks hopeless.

Each side is now working on its own plan to reduce the deficit and to temporarily extend the debt ceiling. Pres. Obama wants to extend the debt ceiling until at least 2013.

If the two sides fail to at least temporarily raise the debt ceiling, the country could default on its payments. Many experts predict that this could lead to a meltdown of US treasury investments.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2011-07-26 07:33:33)

So, Obama says Social Security may not be paid after 8-2-11 if they don't reach an agreement. I have a better idea. Rather than not paying the people who need that small check every month, let's not pay any politician for the next year, see if that helps them to work a little harder for the US, the little people.

Anonymous (2011-07-27 21:05:29)

She might raise the ceiling, she might give us jobs,
but she hasn't got a penny.
Some gave her some, some gave her all,
but some won't give her any.

She is here be what may to stay,
yet who will still stand up for her today?
Vetgirl

Anonymous (2011-08-02 04:20:19)

Lets make sure the Tax loopholes for large companies are removed and these companies pay their fair share of taxes. Lets stop giving our hard earned Tax money which is taken away from us to these other countries when we the people need these dollars here in our own country. Stop paying congress & senators full pay retirement for only spending 4 years in the job. The military said if I wanted a 50 % retirement I would need to work for the U.S Army for 20 years and 1 day. Make the Congress & Sentors pay for health care the same as the working people.
Just my two cents

Daniel L. Allen (2011-08-11 01:54:46)

There is another way to fix this problem (<http://www.bossup2012.com/blog>). We can jumpstart our economy by understanding how it works. Learn more about the GDP and how our consumption and investments can change our financial outlook. We don't have to leave it up to Congress passing a debt deal.

belinda (2011-08-16 21:09:07)

Mr.Obama, I went to college and became a nurse in Tx.And I am a author.I have writting my first book.And one of my dreams is for you to read it!I hope you will like it and tell a friend!When you ran for president I went around knocking at everyone door telling them to vote for you!Because I like what you stand for! And I will be going around telling poeple to vote for you again! I am so proud of you and the work you have did for our country!Mr. Obama alot of men tried to catch Benlin,but you did it!Thank you so much for making the wright the decision at the wright time!And making our country a safer place to live in.The office was in a mess before you got into it! You have did a great job, it take time! Kept up the great work! Please read my book"MY LITTLE SECRETS" author Belinda Davis, My book is about the south and it make me think of the movie Color Purple, Thank You so much for your time Belinda!PLEASE EXCUSED MY SPELLING!

belinda (2011-08-16 21:45:25)

Mr.Obama, I went to college,and became a nurse in Tx.and now I am author.I have writting my first book,'My Little Secrets" author Belinda Davis,My book is about the a south, I was raised up in the south and my book make me think about the movie Color Purple! And one of my dreams is for you to read my book and if you like it tell a friend! When you ran for president. I went around knocking at everyone door telling them to vote for you!Because I like what you stand for!And I will be going around telling everyone to vote for you again! I am so proud of you and the work you have did for our country!Mr.Obama alot of men tried to catch Benlin,but you did it! Thank you so much for making the wright decision at the wright time!And making our coun-try a much safer place to live in! Mr.Obama the office was in a mess before you became president,you have did a great job for the time you have being president!P.S It take TIME! Kept up the good work! YES WE CAN! Belinda!PLEASE EXCUSE MY SPELLING!

Debrrah (2011-08-19 10:15:00)

It is unconscionable what Obama has done to this country in three years. Please..... tell me he is not on a bus tour campaigning for another term in office. His \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) did nothing to recover the depressed housing market because enough loans were not modified. As a matter of fact, the country still has yet to see the cataclysmic effect of the housing market. The banks were telling homeowners that they did not have to comply with the TARP program because they have already paid their debts with interest to the government. Furthermore, they were telling some homeowners that they had been offered the "Making Homes Affordable" and we failed to comply, when in fact "we" didn't know what the hell it was and when it was offered because the truth is that we were never given the opportunity to apply.

Well, the banks got their bail out and the main reason home owners didn't qualify for theirs is because there were no stipulations in the legislation that the loan had to be modified to the property value and the principal balance had to be reduced fairly, so how could loans be modified? Even my seventeen year old daughter can see the rationale. Why the Harvard graduates did not see it coming?

Most homeowners were practically coerced into purchasing these properties, not because they are stupid, but at that time that was their only housing option because "Wall Street" operates above the law. Can you imagine what happened when the job market went sour too?

Furthermore, the investors sued a couple of the bank for selling them bad loans and they got billions in payoff too. Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission sued Countrywide Home Loans for "unlawful practices" and I got a settlement check for \$26.00. Go figure if Obama needs another term in office.

Sorry, Obama, we don't need a lecturer, we already have college degrees and student loans that we can't afford to pay. What we need is a problem solver!!!!

Anonymous (2011-08-26 03:18:42)

Some people have no clue, the supposed educated. riddle me this if you inherit a poop sandwich, how do you magically make it peanut butter. You blame Obama which may or maynot be true, but who made the sandwich= Bush

Eddie (2011-09-25 12:38:05)

You liberals are pathetic. You have destroyed generations of people by telling them you're not good enough to succeed. You sicken me.

5.7 August

Economy, Congress and Obama (2011-08-22 16:58)

Many people are of the opinion that the 2012 election will go bad for Obama if the economy isn't doing well. However, the polls don't really indicating this so far.

While it is true that presidents usually get the blame for the economy this is not always the case. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was reelected during the darkest days of the Great Depression after failing to have solved the country's economic woes in his first four years.

The reason FDR did so well is that people by that time were well aware that it was more than decade of Republican policy that had caused the economic mess. In the same way, polls are indicating that the American voter does not blame Obama for the current state of the economy.

Now, it is true that people are not happy with his handling of the economy, but this is not too surprising. The public expects nothing less than positive, if not miraculous, results so it really would not matter who was in power now.

The simple truth is that the economic woes facing the country are deeply entrenched and will defy any simple solution. Just as in the Great Depression, it took many years to unravel more than a decade of failed policy.

However, today, we are reeling from nearly three decades of easy money policy. Bill Clinton was able to dent this policy, but only on the governmental level. In the world of finance and Federal Reserve policy, the Clinton economists did not differ all that much from the Republican ones.

The big difference between FDR's time and now is that the people then had come to the full conclusion that Republicans were to blame for the Great Depression. Today, there are still many doubters. We can see this by the fact that Democrats control the House of Representatives.

In FDR's day, he won his first term with an overwhelming majority that was not just Democratic but was also progressive. And when he was reelected, Congress became even more strongly Democrat!

The makeup in Congress allowed FDR to take charge and restructure a badly-damaged economy. While Obama can win in 2012, it may not mean much if he doesn't have a friendly Congress to help him with his agenda.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Anonymous (2011-10-18 11:49:42)

I m sade. I believed in Obama. But i really loose my faith.
Seb from agence web.

Meleha (2011-10-28 15:38:45)

his is super cool. If you want to see what people are tweeting about President Obama, go to Wishbone and it will show you the most common tweets about him, displayed in a visual graph. Take a look at [http://labs.windward.net/search.html?search=barack %20obama](http://labs.windward.net/search.html?search=barack%20obama)

A revealing chart (2011-08-23 21:20)

The chart below shows the gross internal debt in the U.S. from 1920 to 2010. It is one of many indicators that show the economic predicament of the country and how it really cannot be connected to President Obama. Internal debt is the money owned to lenders that are based within the country. It includes the federal and other government debts that is owned to American lenders.

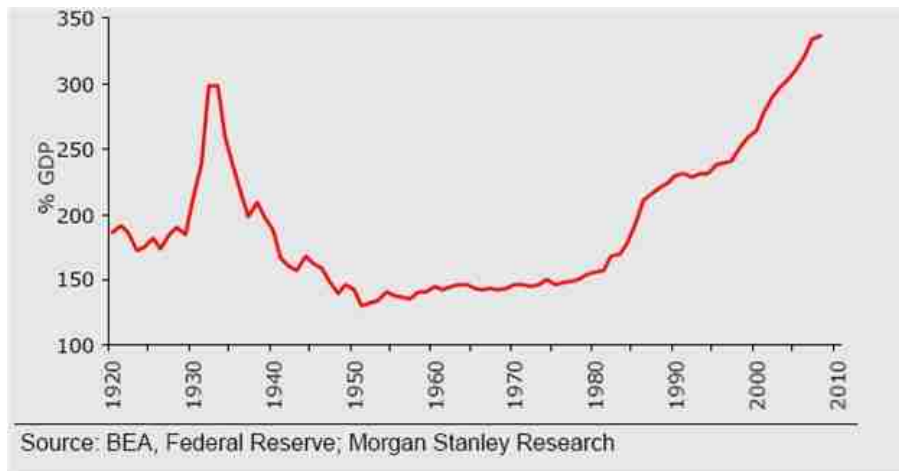
However, it does not include the external debt owned to foreign lenders, which is less around 94 % of GDP.

Many people make the mistake of thinking that internal debt is not so bad as external debt. While this may be the case when things are running smoothly, it is not the case if there is trouble paying the debt. In the latter situation, it is the American financial system that gets hit hardest with high internal debt. Both the Great Depression and Japan's "lost decade" were due more to internal debt rather than external debt.

As you can see in the chart, internal debt was high before the start of the Great Depression in 1929. It soared even higher as Americans tried to borrow their way out of the economic malaise. However, this only led to the market meltdown of 1937-8 in which America sunk to the lowest levels of the Great Depression.

You can also see that in modern times, American internal debt began rising again in the Reagan years and has not abated ever since. Americans are completely addicted to borrowing at the governmental level, business level and especially at the consumer level.

By the time Obama came into office, he had inherited a huge deficit. And the need for economic stimulus made it difficult not to borrow even more money.



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X

Artist Christopher Terrell (2011-08-28 10:48:10)
www.ObamaArtMuseum.com have a look!

zunot (2011-09-09 02:06:48)
 soared even higher as Americans tried to borrow their way out of the economic malaise

Steven Believin' (2011-09-28 21:07:51)
 Obama is mentally breaking down, he has no political significance except that his presence in the white house is the only thing stopping the passage of the Glass-Steagall Act, which would solve at least the monetary crisis and create the grounds for solving the physical crisis. Obama is a bankers pet and no one needs him, stop defending his horrific presidency because he's continued all of Bush's policies and I think everyone who is paying attention knows that.

Anonymous (2011-10-10 17:58:47)
 Obama is a dope and I can't wait until he's voted out.

Rachel (2011-10-11 08:36:59)

Thank you for this post! This is exactly the point I have been trying to make to people, too: Obama came into a government overburdened with debt and could not possibly be expected to have cleaned it all up in his first four years in office!

5.8 October

The Herman Cain Train (2011-10-17 13:35)

Although it's still very early in the nomination process, Herman Cain is now firmly ahead of the GOP pack creating the possibility of a presidential election involving two black men.

If a fiction writer just five years ago suggested this scenario for 2012, they probably would not have been taken seriously. Again, it's early, but how did this come about and does Cain actually stand a chance of winning the nomination? Well, the Republicans have been moving toward more diverse candidates for some time now. First we had Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana who campaigned around the same time as Obama during the presidential nomination race. In 2010, we witnessed successful GOP candidates like Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina, an Asian Indian American, and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a Cuban American.

Cain's political views also happen to not anger too severely either of the two main factions of the Republican Party, the mainstream and the Tea Party.

He is likeable and a good in-person campaigner. In fact, people first started taking note of him during straw polls when candidates angle for votes face-to-face with party activists.

He has also easily won most if not all the presidential debates.

Cain is not shy about courting the Tea Party either. In a recent YouTube video, Cain says that he was thinking like a Tea Party member long before the group even came into being.

Whether or not, the "Cain train" can continue to dominate the nomination race will depend on a number of factors. The most important one is probably whether or not the Tea Party will fully embrace the ex-Godfather's Pizza magnate. Should be interesting, and entertaining, to watch events over the next several months.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



The impact of Occupy Wall Street (2011-10-20 18:29)

The Occupy Wall Street movement has exploded across the United States and to countries all over the world. Generally speaking, Republicans have reviled the movement with some exceptions. Democrats, however, are much more receptive to the protests.

The overwhelmingly Democratic Los Angeles city council, for example, voted to support the local Occupy movement. Even President Obama gave a mild endorsement when he empathized with Occupy Wall Street's cause.

Whether the Occupy movement can help Democrats win elections though is still a matter of contention. Can they have an influence similar to that of the Tea Party for Republicans?

A lot will depend on whether the movement sees the advantage of leveraging the energy of followers toward winning elections.

At the very least, the Occupy demonstrations, should help raise awareness, especially among young people, of how we got into such a terrible economic mess. The great leap in economic disparity over the last few decades did not come about by accident.

Maybe that knowledge alone may be enough to motivate people toward seeking change in the voting booth.

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X

Ericka Marsahl (2011-11-03 11:16:17)

The "Occupy Wallstreet" protest have gotten the attention of many people in this country. The younger generation have a big role in this movement and speak for many in the "disappearing middle class" and the growing number of unemployed college graduates. Politicians should be aware of these growing number of voters who are disheartened.

More on Cain (2011-10-27 11:58)

The Herman Cain flurry could survive according to some analysts because the Georgia-based candidate just has the right type of appeal at the right time. Cain might continue to attract support even though there are signs that he still isn't taking his campaign seriously.

Although it is getting late in the game, Cain still does not have a serious operation set up in any of the early states. He's still doing paid speaking engagements and many people still think he's in the race to promote his brand more than anything else.

However, Cain has started to hire new staff including Steve Grubbs, the new chairman of his Iowa effort and a former chair of the state Republican party. What makes Cain resonate with GOP voters may be the very same qualities that make him seem outlandish to others. His main support seems to come from the Tea Party segment of the party and his "outsider" style and "tell it like it is" manner of speaking have strong appeal with that group.

Ron Paul holds many of the positions as Cain including a flat tax plan, but in comparison to the latter, Paul comes across as boring and cerebral. With Tea Party voters the last thing one wants to convey is an aura of the "intellectual elite."

We'll have to see how Cain's poll number hold up over the next few debates as his opponents concentrate more attacks in his direction.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/umpF1wvU2A4>

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X

5.9 November

Cain feels brotherly love for Koch brothers (2011-11-04 16:23)

Herman Cain says the Koch brothers are his 'brothers from another mother' in answer to his opponents linking him with the pair of corporate political contributors. The statement may end up hurting his chances with independents who dislike the Supreme Courts corporate personhood ruling and the return of unlimited (and anonymous) corporate contributions for federal elections.

In other news, a new poll shows President Obama well ahead of GOP rivals in the important swing state of Pennsylvania: <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/polls/191625-poll-obama-leads-all-republicans-in-pennsylvania>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama in Hawai'i for FTA talks (2011-11-12 21:54)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/F3ELetq7mfU>

President Obama speaks at the APEC conference about the formation of the Trans Pacific Partnership free trade agreement (TPP FTA).

The nations involved in the negotiations currently include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

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5.10 December

Obama Christmas Store (2011-12-04 18:54)

Need some holiday gifts, ornaments and accessories? Try the Obama Store at:

<http://store.barackobama.com/?source=homepage-holidayshopping>

You can purchase items like Obama-themed wrapping paper:

\$10



Wrapping Paper

\$40



Rhodium Ball Ornament

\$15



2012 Calendar

The gift items are union made in America and they go to help the Obama campaign and, by extension, all Democrats and progressive independents who will benefit from the campaign's coattails.

X

Bo Button Combo

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

(2011-12-09 21:58)

In recent speeches and public comments, President Barack Obama has embraced the Occupy movement. He is developing his campaign as one in which he champions the cause of the 99 %.

He even characterized the overall 2012 election as a "make or break" time for the middle class.

The Occupy movement has been kicked out of most of its encampments, but it has shifted its focus in a number of ways. Recently different groups launched an effort to occupy foreclosed homes. In some areas, the movement is reoccupying areas from which they were expelled or they are choosing new areas to encamp.

Obama may be able to benefit from the goodwill of the group if he is seen as advocating for their cause. While he focused more on "uniting" the country in his first campaign, his efforts have not borne much fruit. Republicans continue to obstruct any progress with a record number of filibusters in the senate.

Many people who supported the president the first time around also support the Occupy movement, so there should be enough opportunities for cooperation between the two sides.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/vrYFx6fFT3s>

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X

Obama on 60 Minutes (2011-12-11 18:35)

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/BrczgHyoewQ>

President Barack Obama makes his case for a second term on 60 Minutes (CBS). He notes that economy was so badly damaged during the George W. Bush administration that fixing it will take more than one term and maybe even more than two terms.

What he's saying is correct as even many conservative economic experts have admitted. Still, a tough economy will make for a tough reelection campaign for the president.

X

President Obama and family during taping of upcoming Christmas show.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

“We’re Here to Mark the End of This War” (2011-12-12 20:02)

X

IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/mRV_tKIN_xc

President Obama with the Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki talk about the final pullout of combat troops from Iraq. The U.S. will have no bases in the country but will maintain a rather large diplomatic corps with plenty of security due to the situation there.

The president is making good on one of his most noteworthy campaign promises from the 2008 election.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Is Mitt Romney really more electable? (2011-12-18 21:46)

The Republican nomination race is now turning strongly toward the question of electability and most pundits are pointing toward former governor Mitt Romney as the most electable hopeful.

Romney consistently performs better than the other candidates in polls against President Barack Obama. However, many GOP strategists have wondered whether Romney can really motivate the Republican base to get out the vote. Predicting voter turnout is problematic especially with so much time to before the general election. If Romney is unable to ignite the base can he hope to get the turnout needed to defeat Obama?

Some polls are suggesting that Romney is not so popular among the most reliable voters in the Republican Party.

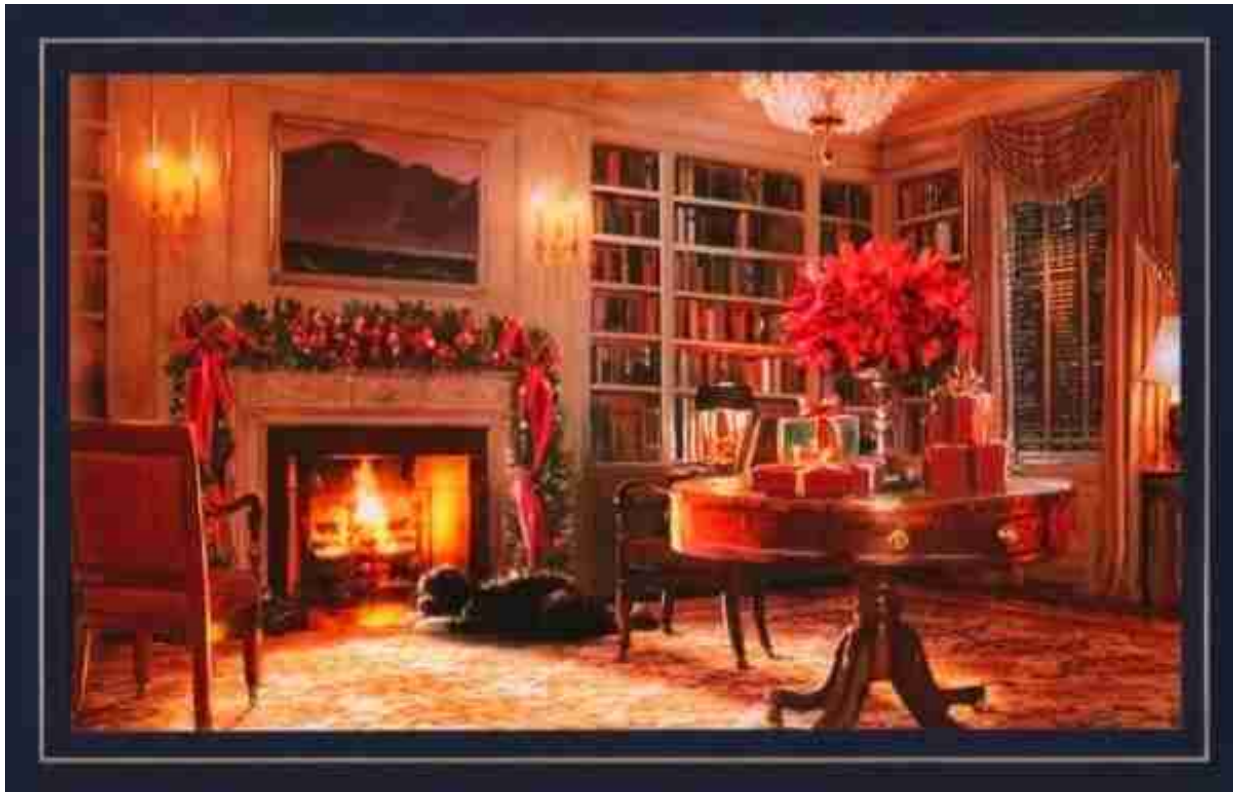
X

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/151547/Gingrich-Running-Strong-Traditionally-Reliable-Voters.aspx>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obamas send Christmas card, Palin attacks (2011-12-22 08:07)



The White House sent out the Obama Christmas card featuring First Dog Bo relaxing by a cozy fire place outlined with what looks like holly, ivy and ribbons.. Nearby is a table decorated with poinsettias and wrapped gifts.

Strangely, Sarah Palin thought the card was inappropriate and did not emphasize Christmas traditions like "family, faith and freedom." Her comments are reminiscent of the meme in conservative media that there is a "war on Christmas" being waged by the left.

Palin must not be aware that there is a long tradition as well of featuring pets and other animals in Christmas cards as a Google image search reveals.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/XHRY52I2oDI>

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X

Sierra Club thanks Obama for toxic mercury standards (2011-12-22 20:50)

A TV ad from the Sierra Club praises President Barack Obama for his recent regulation limiting the amount of toxic mercury that industry can release into the environment. Mercury contamination causes brain damage and is particularly dangerous for fetuses and young children.

The new regulation is the first ever standard for mercury pollution and it will significantly curb current practices.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Sotogrande-Properties (2012-01-01 14:51:03)

Obama Is the greatest president to ever live!!!! and the best representation of the black american community in America!
Visit www.sotogrande-properties.net to stay in an area where michelle obama visited.

Splatterbeast 666 (2012-01-21 09:34:17)

eu vou degolar as suas gargantas

6. 2012

6.1 January

(2012-01-06 18:59)

The Dog as Deity, Ancestor and Royal Animal



by Paul Kekai Manansala

Share article:

The Dog Story: "When old dogs bark, it's time to watch out."

Although maligned in some cultures as "unclean," a thorough historical review will reveal that few if any animals have been as revered as the *dog*.

This is even more true when one considers the **dog** along with its wild ancestor the **wolf**. Since many biologists now classify the two as the same species – **Canis lupus** – it is valid to examine the history of the two together.

Indeed, from the genetic standpoint the dog does not even qualify as a subspecies of the wolf. A subspecies would normally require a 20-25 percent genetic divergence. The divergence between human "races" is about 6 percent and within "races" about 8 percent.

However, dogs and wolves diverge genetically by only 1 percent. And as with human races, the divergence within each group is greater than that between the two groups.

"By the Dog of Egypt"

When looking at the dog in historical records, few are older than those of the ancient Egyptians.

According to the testimony of the ancient Greeks, the Egyptians loved dogs and treated them with great respect. **Dogs** received burial in family tombs and family members would shave their heads in mourning at the death of a family dog.

Even in the predynastic period, we see that the Egyptians were already burying dogs in the same way they buried humans with plenty of goods for the afterlife. In dynastic Egypt, dog mummies were made with great care and expense. At Hardai, the sacred city of the god Anubis there are sprawling dog cemeteries.

When thinking of dogs as deities few come to mind as quickly as Anubis (aka Anpu). While sometimes represented clearly as a dog, at other times he appears more like a jackal.

The most common representation appears like a cross between a dog and a jackal and/or wolf. The same image is commonly used to portray Wepwawet, another important if lesser known Egyptian deity. This portrayal has led some to believe that the Egyptians may have interbred domestic dogs with the wild dogs of Egypt, and in particular the jackal and wolf.

Anubis was one of the most ancient of Egyptian gods closely associated with funerary rites and the afterlife. He was guide to the dead and the one who weighted the souls of the deceased against the feather of Maat (truth and order). Socrates referred to Anubis when he swore "by the **Dog of Egypt**."

The Greeks called Hardai by the name Cynopolis "Dog City" revealing how they identified this god. During Roman times, mummified dogs were placed at Anubis temples. Also the fact that Hardai was teeming with *dog cemeteries* makes it very clear that this deity was at least partly associated with the domestic canine.



While the Greeks called Anubis sacred city Cynopolis, the city of Wepwawet was known as Lycopolis "**Wolf City**." The original king of the dead before Osiris took that position, Wepwawet was intimately connected with Egyptian royalty. The Lord of the Dead in Egyptian religion was the King of Kings and Wepwawet's original honor survived in his placement on two of the four royal standards.

The king's standard, the *shedshed* with the form of the royal placenta had an image of Wepwawet and was used to lead Pharaoh's armies into battle. It was also supposed to carry Pharaoh into heaven after his death. Wepwawet's own standard was the other of the four, and represented Upper Egypt, the unification of the two lands and the Egyptian nobility.



Like Anubis, Wepwawet was one of the older Egyptian gods, the oldest of Abydos, home of Egypt's first dynasty. His sacred city was Asyut near the border of Upper and Lower Egypt. Anubis was the lord of the Asyut necropolis.

After relinquishing the title of Lord of the Dead to Osiris, Wepwawet became mainly associated with royalty, war and the unification rites, although he continued to have funerary significance.

Like Anubis, Wepwawet appeared to be associated at various times with the wolf, dog and jackal and often with an apparent cross of these types.

Another prominent god who appeared most often in dog form was Set. Also an ancient god, Set's popularity declined with time. He was a god of the desert and the storm and was best known for his conflict with Osiris, and the latter's son Horus. Although portrayed as a number of animals and also as a human with possibly an armadillo's head, Set in full animal form was usually represented as a dog.

One hieroglyph variant of his name has an image of his dog form somewhat resembling a greyhound.

Originally Set was the equal of Osiris, but as that god and his son Horus rose in popularity, Set became more demonic in quality. He was symbolized Lower Egypt until the Hyksos invaders adopted him as their patron god. After the Hyksos were driven from Egypt, Set became the practical equivalent of the devil.



Even Osiris, one of the most prominent deities of ancient Egypt, was sometimes portrayed as a dog often together with Anubis. The latter according to some accounts was the son of Osiris. Another one of Osiris son's, Duamatef, lord of one of the canopic jars, also had a jackal/dog head. With two canine-headed sons it is no wonder that Osiris should also be represented in this form. In latter times, he became associated with Khentamentiu, the dog/jackal lord of the royal cemetery of Abydos, as Osiris-Khentamentiu.

Djehuty, also known as Thoth, the god of Maat and wisdom, although mainly associated with the ibis and baboon could also appear as a monkey with a dog's head.

Dancing with wolves

The indigenous people of the Americas revered the wolf, coyote and the **domestic dog**.

Some tribes were known as the "Wolf People" like the Mohican or Mohegan. The Pawnee were known by other tribes by a similar name. Numerous tribes had wolf divisions or bands. Also, animist wolf societies were very pervasive and widespread.

It is interesting to note that while the ancient Egyptians associated the star Sirius with the dog calling it the "Dog Star," the Pawnee knew Sirius as the "Wolf Star." Medicine men and shamans donned wolf clothing before rituals.

Both the Amerindians and the Inuit regularly crossed their domestic dogs with wolves. There are repeated accounts of tribes that captured wolf or coyote whelps to mate with their dogs. The captive wolves and the wolf crosses were kept as pets and working animals. Thus, as with in ancient Egypt, the line between wild and domestic dog was blurred.

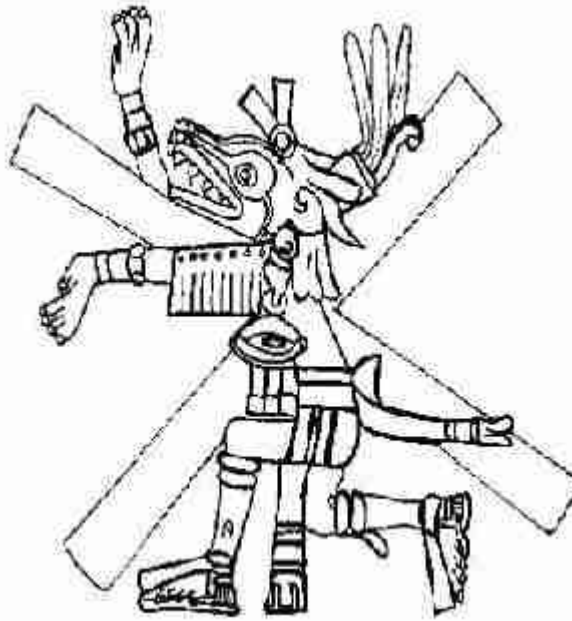
The coyote god of the indigenous Americans was often the trickster or culture hero and sometimes the creator of humans and/or the Milky Way. The Pawnee and Blackfoot Indians of Canada knew the Milky Way as the "Wolf Trail." Both the coyote and dog appear in numerous North American Indian creation and deluge myths.

Dogs were highly prized among most indigenous American peoples. Among some tribes an average family would have about 30 dogs. This may seem fantastic until one considers the economic value of dogs. They were used for hunting and for transporting the meat of kills either by backpack or pulling devices known as *travois*. The transport role of dogs was important also among the many nomadic Indian tribes.

In most cases, dogs were treated like family members often living in the home and eating along with the family. They were often accorded burial and mourning rites. In many Indian tribes, people might be known as the father, mother, brother or sister of such-and-such a dog. The Inuit, in particular, accorded very special care for their dogs as their own survival rested largely on their canine friends.

Dog worship extended into Central and South America also. One of the important concepts here is that of the *nahuali* or animal twin. Not only humans but gods had nahuali. The twin of Quetzalcoatl, the Toltec god of goodness and light, was the dog god Xolotl. The latter was a guide of the dead and of the Sun, and also the personification of the planet Venus, the most important Mesoamerican planet/star.

In Mesoamerican art, Xolotl is portrayed as a man with a dog's head. He is said to have created a protector and guide for humans in the underworld in the form of the hairless dog, the Xoloitzcuintle.



Both Quetzalcoatl and Xolotl also appear as earthly rulers and the Vienna Codex states that nine successors of Quetzalcoatl took the same name. The great Chichimec conqueror who replaced the Toltecs as the dominant power in Mexico was named Xolotl. The name "Chichimec" refers to those "of dog lineage."

The Lineage of the Blue Wolf

Among most Turko-Mongol and Siberian peoples, the wolf and dog hold a very high place. One of the most well-known traditions in this regard is the descent of the great Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan from the *wolf and the doe*.

Many modern Mongolians were stripped of their surnames during the height of the communist revolution in Mongolia. With the government now allowing people to adopt new surnames most have chosen to claim descent from Genghis. They have adopted his tribal name Borjigin, "the blue wolf."

From Turkey to the Kamchatka peninsula one people after another are found who at one time either worshiped the wolf as a god or as an ancestor.

Turkic people like the Kazakhs, Uygyrs and Uzbeks consider the gray wolf as the mother of all Turks. In accordance with these ancient traditions, Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern secular Turkey, is known affectionately as the "Gray Wolf."

As we have seen before, where the wolf is revered the dog also usually holds a high position. Among present-day Mongolians, the dog's place in the family is more similar to that of the parents than that of the children. It is said that Mongolians often judge visitors by whether the family dog takes to the guest or not. The widespread belief is that people reincarnate from dogs so one should never hit a dog as it may become one's own child.

Genghis called his four great generals – Zev, Subedei, Zelme and Khubilai – the "*dogs of war*" a very honorable title among the Mongols.

In Siberia, along with many cases of people who claim the wolf as ancestor one will also find many who claim descent from the dog.

The Tibetans, whose history intertwined with the Mongolians with the spread of Buddhism, also held the dog in high regard. They believe like the Mongols that dogs are closest to humans in reincarnation and that high lamas especially often reincarnate as dogs.



Tibetans used dogs like the Lhasa Apso as holy temple guards or good luck charms for monasteries. The Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama often kept dogs as pets and sent dogs as gifts to other kings. Two great sages in Tibetan and Mongolian Buddhism were intimately associated with dogs – Kukuripa and Kukuraja.

Dogs in 'Ur of the Chaldees'

Bau was originally one of the three main deities of the Sumerian pantheon. She is portrayed as a dog-headed goddess of healing and life. Dogs are her sacred animals with dog and puppy burials found at her temples.

The belief that a dog's licking of wounds aided healing seems connected with Bau's position of goddess of physicians.

With the rise of the goddess Inanna in Sumerian religion, Bau and her various manifestations began to be assimilated by Inanna. The latter goddess had seven hunting dogs. Her husband Dumuzi is also said to have black royal dogs in the story of Inanna's descent into the underworld.

In the Old Testament, the priests of Inanna (Asherah) and Dumuzi (Tammuz) are known as *kelabim* "dogs."

Every year the Sumerian king took on the role of Dumuzi in a ritual marriage to Inanna for the good of the kingdom. Sumerologist Samuel Noah Kramer has suggested that the Lukur priestess played the role of Inanna in this ritual.

The Lukur maidens are the seven daughters of dog-headed Bau: Zazaru, Nipae, Urnuntaea, Hegirnuna, Heshaga, Zargu and Zurgu who served in Bau's temple. When Inanna absorbed Bau, the Lukur priestess became her devotee.

Sumerian royal inscriptions use the compound *ur-sag* "hero, warrior" which means literally "top dog."

In the latter religion of Babylon and Assyria, the god Bel-Merodach, king of all heavenly gods, had four dogs named Ukkumu (Seizer), Akkulu (Eater), Ikšsuda (Grasper), and Iltebu (Holder).

Europa

Leto, the mother of Apollo and Artemis, took the form of a wolf or was said to be escorted from the Hyperboreans by wolves. Artemis was known as the "Wolf Goddess" and had a wolf on her shield. Both she and her Roman counterpart Diana were accompanied by a pack of hunting dogs.

Temples to Lycian Apollo or "Wolf-like Apollo" were common in ancient Greece. Apollo was known as Lykegenes "of she-wolf descent" in reference to his mother Leto. The wolf was Apollo's sacred animal.

Even Zeus had wolf connections among the Arcadians. Zeus Lykaïos or "Wolf Zeus" was the patron deity of Arcadia. There was a story that a man turned into a wolf at each yearly sacrifice to Zeus Lykaïos.

The death goddess Hecate was closely linked with dogs and sometimes portrayed as dog-headed. Her special pet was Cerebos, the three-headed guard dog of the entrance to Hades. The connection of dogs to death, the underworld and resurrection may be linked to their burying and retrieving of bones and also to the practice of "dog burial" – the devouring of corpses by dogs.



Rome was built by Romulus and Remus, both suckled by a she-wolf according to tradition. Romulus went on to become Rome's first king. Wolves were apparently sacred to the Etruscans, who formed part of the heritage of Romulus and Remus, and they made many statues of wolves.

The she-wolf of the Capitol was the emblem of Rome.

The Norse supreme deity Woden (Odin) chose two wolves, Freki and Geri, as his companions. His own death by the great apocalyptic wolf Fenrir was considered a fitting warrior's death for the god.

The underworld known as Hel to the Norse was guarded by a pack of dogs and wolves headed by the massive dog Garm.

The Celts had special relationships with dogs. The great Celtic hero Cuchulainn, whose name means the "Hound of Culann" was closely linked with dogs. He was forbidden from eating dog flesh, a common Celtic practice, but breaks this taboo leading to his death.

Unclean, but...

The brahmins of India classified the dog as unclean but this is a rather late addition to Indian culture. By no means, however, can one consider that the dog was widely deplored.



In fact, in various parts of India especially in eastern states like Orissa, the supreme godhead is represented by Bhairava, a form of Shiva, who either takes on the form of a dog or more commonly has dog companions or vehicles (vahanas). A less common manifestation of Shiva in other parts of India known as Khandoba also had the same attributes. These deities appear in Nepalese Buddhism as Yamantaka, a wrathful god who conquers the forces of death.

Interestingly in the Vedic literature, generally considered the oldest in India, many deities have dog companions. Indra, the quintessential Vedic god has as his companion and messenger the faithful bitch Sarama. She gives birth to two sons, the Saramayas, who in turn become the companions and messengers of Yama, the lord of death.

There are also indications that Varuna, a water god who originally held a high place in the Vedic pantheon, had a pet dog. And the four great Vedic books, the Rgveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda are likened to four dogs who follow the deities Visnu, Sri and Dattatreya.

One of the most memorable dog stories from Indian literature involves the heroic Pandava brothers of the Mahabharata. When King Dharmaraja, his brothers and all their families set off on their final journey up the Himalayas, each one fell until only Dharmaraja and his companion dog were left.

As they neared the top of the mountain, they were greeted by the god Indra in his chariot. The god lauded Dharmaraja and said that he had earned a place in heaven. He bidden that the king board the chariot and as he did Dharmaraja beckoned for his canine friend. However, Indra protested saying that dogs were not allowed in his heaven.

Upon hearing this Dharmaraja said that he could not abandon such a faithful companion who depended on him. He declared he would rather stay on earth than abandon his dog. Finally Indra relented and both were taken to heaven. Upon arriving the dog transformed into the god Dharma, the lord of the correct way of living.

Among the Muslims, the dog was also generally considered unclean. However, one great exception to this rule was the Saluki breed which was proclaimed in the Koran no less as the "gift of Allah." The saluki was also known by such names

as al-Hor "the Noble One," and al-Baraha "the Blessed One." The Arab literature states that the Saluki originated in the city of Saluk in Yemen. A gift of a saluki was considered a great prize.

The ancient Israelites were another people among whom the dog was considered unclean. One of the lowest slurs was to call a person a dog or a "dead dog" or "dog's head." We find the same thing in many Muslim cultures. It is thought that the Hebrews disdain for the dog may have been a reaction to dog worship among the Egyptians and Canaanites. In Ashkelon, an ancient Canaanite city, a huge dog cemetery has been excavated dating to Persian times.

The wolf though does figure prominently in the Old Testament. In Jacob's blessing to Benjamin, the tribe of the latter is likened to a wolf that devours the prey in the morning and divides the spoil at night. Some believe this may be an allusion to Saul, the first king of Israel. If so, might there a connection here to Wepwawet, the royal wolf of Egypt? Others think that this refers to the Temple that was built on Benjamin's territory and swallowed up the offerings of the people at the altar.

In latter Jewish literature, the Talmud has a warning against raising dogs in Israel comparing it to rearing swine. The medieval scholar Rashi, though, says unclean meat is always thrown to the dogs in gratitude for their silence during the Exodus from Egypt. It is also thought that the Hebrew word for dog "kalev" can mean "close to the heart" referring to the dog as a faithful companion.

There is even a thought that the phrase "dead dog" used by the Hebrew prophets was not so disparaging towards dogs after all. Dogs like prophets warn of impending misfortune, so one would pay more attention to the adjective "dead" rather than the noun "dog" in this phrase.

The rabbis did have some good things to say about our canine friend as found in this dog story:

"The Jerusalem Talmud [Schochet writes] cites as one of Rabbi Meir's fables the story of a dog who observed a serpent poisoning the curdled milk of its master. The dog barked frantically, but to no avail, as its master failed to heed its warnings and set out to partake of the milk. The desperate dog hastened to consume the food itself, thereby dying an agonizing death while saving the lives of its master and his fellow shepherds. The grateful shepherds buried the faithful dog with funerary honors and erected a monument to its memory."

Dogs and royalty

Pliny stated that among the Ethiopians there were people who kept a dog as king. They made judgements based upon interpretations of the disposition and actions of the dog king.

In China and Tibet especially, dogs appear from very early times as royal animals. From at the least the Han Dynasty, dogs had royal status. The Emperor Ling Ti (156-189) bestowed royal titles to the palace dogs as imperial guards and viceroys. This was the beginning of a tradition in which the emperor appeared with dogs forming part of the royal guard.

In fact, in the oldest known royal tomb – that of Shang ruler Fu Hao (1250 BCE) in Anyang – we find a pit containing the remains of six dogs under the royal corpse. Centuries later at the tomb of Marquis Yi (about 430 BCE) in present-day Hubei Province we find the coffin and remains of a dog in the tomb's eastern chamber.

The imperial family sometimes established laws against harming dogs and even took to the art of dog breeding themselves. One of the most prized gifts one could receive from the emperor was one or more of the royal dog breeds represented today probably by the Pekinese, Pug, Chow Chow and Shih Tzu.

The most well-known royal dog lover in China must be the Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi who came to power in 1861. She paid strict attention in guiding the imperial eunuchs who bred the royal dogs. Upon her death, she left a loving poem about the butterfly lion dogs she had bred, which ends with the lines:

And so (the butterfly dog) remains, but if it dies, remember that you too are mortal.

Among the priest-kings of Tibet, the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama, and also among other grand lamas, there existed "holy dogs" as "badges" of the holy office.



The Panchen Lama was said to have two such dogs that accompanied him everywhere and were attended to by the Lo, the religious prime minister and high priest. Each dog also had its own retinue of servants.

In both Tibet and China, lion dogs, or statues of these dogs, also served as sacred guardians of temples.

The love for toy dogs was found among the royal families of Europe by at least the 15th century. The Papillon is shown in paintings of the French royal court at this time.

In the day of Francis I of France (1515-1547) the Bichon Frise dog became established in the royal court. Henry III was said to be so enamored with these dogs that he fashioned a basket to be placed around his neck to carry his pets.

The King Charles Spaniel is so named as it was the favorite of Charles II of England. Queen Elizabeth of present times has a fancy for Welsh Corgis that often appear with her in public.

In more ancient times, European kings often kept large coursing hounds. Even the legendary King Arthur was said to have a hunting dog named Caval, which means "horse." However, these large breeds did not fit well into the aristocratic courts of Renaissance Europe.

Companion of the Gods

In addition to canine or part-canine gods, dogs are also found profusely as companions of the gods. In this sense they are usually divine and immortal and in a sense gods themselves.

As noted already, Inanna, Bel Merodach, Bhairava, Khandoba, Dattatreya, Yama, Indra, Artemis, Hecate, Diana and Woden are among those who have dog or wolf companions.

In Africa, Nyambe, the Louyi creator god has a beloved dog. Nyamurairi, the supreme god of the Nyanga people of the Congo had a dog named Rukuba, who gave the gift of fire. The Yorubas have the dog-headed Aroui who also happens to have a pet dog. They also worshipped Odudua, the mother goddess whose is usually depicted with a dog, the animal sacred to her son, the war god Ogun.

The deities Legba of the Dahomey and Nzassi of the Fjort also have companion dogs.

In the ancient Samoan religion, the dog was sacred to and the companion of many of the highest gods. The pan-Polynesian goddess Hina usually is said to have one or two pet dogs. In the Philippines, Kimat is the dog of the supreme god Kadlakan and also is the personification of lightning. Among the Ifugao of the Philippines, the deities Wigan, Kabigat and Balitok all have dogs. The Apayaos of Luzon have a malevolent god Anguan who hunts people with his dogs.

Mithras, the Persian savior god, also had hunting dogs that helped him in the slaying of the bull. The dog was considered sacred to Mithras followers in ancient Europe.

The dog as ancestor and totem

Dog ancestry and totemic worship is rather widespread but particularly common in eastern Asia and North America.

The Aleuts and a number of Inuit peoples have such beliefs. So do the Athabascan Dogrib Indians and the Ojibwas (Chippewa). Around the Pacific Rim, the beliefs are found spread through Siberia, in southern China, Indochina, Java, the Philippines and New Zealand. They extend westward into Madagascar.

Studying the beliefs in South China, researcher Chungshee Hsien Liu came to the conclusion that these beliefs were of "proto-Malay" origin. Some Russian researchers such as S.I. Rudenko also thought that this concept may have originated in insular Southeast Asia possibly among the *Austronesian* or Proto-Austronesian peoples.

The theory is interesting in light of recent research by Peter Savolainen and others suggesting that all domestic dogs originated from a few maternal lineages somewhere in eastern Asia. Savolainen also theorizes that the ancestor of the dingo of Southeast Asia and Australia was spread with the migrations of Austronesian speakers around 6,000 years ago.

Jonica Newby, author of *Animal Attraction* a history of animal domestication, thinks this points to the dingo as the earliest domestic dog and possibly the closest representative of the ancestor of all dogs. In such a case, the dingo would likely have descended from *Canis lupus chanco* a sub-species of the Grey Wolf in East Asia rather than *Canis lupus pallipes* of India, as previously thought.

The regional cult of a dog ancestor usually takes the form of a totemic dog ancestor who marries a goddess or, as in the case of South China, of a dog ancestor who marries a daughter of the Chinese emperor. The latter origin stories are widespread among the Hmong, Mien, Li, Shan, Shaka and other peoples in South China and northern Indochina.

In the Mien version of this story, the Chinese emperor Pien Hung is faced with defeat from emperor Kao Wang and offers his daughter to anyone who can defeat the invader. The three-colored dog, Phan Hu, hearing of this penetrates enemy lines, kills Kao Wang and brings back his head to Pien Hung. Taking the emperor's daughter as his wife, they produce 12 children from which spring the twelve clans of the Mien. The children disdained life in urban China and instead sought refuge in the lush mountain regions of South China.

Many Pacific coast Amerindian peoples have the wolf on their totem poles. In such cases, it usually becomes taboo to kill a wolf or consume its flesh. However, in some cases, a totem is actually sacrificed and its flesh eaten in religious ritual.

A number of peoples in West and South Africa claim a dog as ancestor including one of the more prominent Bantu groups in southern Africa. Other peoples who held such beliefs include the Kyrgyz, the Nicobarese, the Pomotu islanders, and groups in Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and formerly in Finland.

An ancient and grand legacy

As the most widespread and probably the oldest domesticated animal, the relationship between dog and humans has always had aura of mystery. Newby believes that the domestication of the dog led directly to the domestication of other animals and thus was a major turning point in the history of humans.

Scientists now wonder whether it was humans that domesticated the dog or the dog that domesticated itself. Whatever the case, the dog has learned to adapt to living with humans to a degree finer than any other animal. That the character of the dog has impressed us is without doubt as evidenced by the numerous stories and legends that have

been preserved. Even those who felt the dog was beyond the pale were usually forced at some point to concede its nobler qualities.

That the dog should have been elevated to high status by some many peoples and so frequently throughout history should come as no surprise. The relationship between dogs and humans may go back 100,000 years according to some of the most recent research. That means that for some 90,000 years humans depended greatly on the dog as a helper and companion during the hunter-gatherer phase. The name of the Egyptian god Wepwawet means "opener of the way" and indeed the dog has opened the way for humankind throughout history.

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`Dog as Deity, Ancestor and Royal Animal`

Obama touts economic growth (2012-01-08 20:34)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/eHBw57gbwVw?rel=0>

President Barack Obama pushes Republicans to help him grow the economy after favorable reports in the job market showing brisk growth.

In the GOP primary race, prominent conservatives are calling for voters to rally around a single conservative candidate to prevent Mitt Romney from gaining too much momentum.

The New Hampshire race is Romney's to lose, but he should face a very tough contest in South Carolina. If conservatives to rally together, they can beat Romney in the southern state, and that could turn the whole primary around.

Many candidates are PACs are reportedly launching negative TV ad campaigns targeting the former Massachusetts governor.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Romney wins New Hampshire primary (2012-01-10 19:36)

Mitt Romney has won the New Hampshire primary with Ron Paul coming in second and Jon Huntsman in third place. The outcome was not unexpected giving Romney's wide lead in the polls. All attention will now turn to South Carolina, which has acted as a litmus test for nominee candidates in recent times.



IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/_7Y-Q9ZY5Ao?rel=0

Campaign manager Jim Messina lays out the various paths that President Obama can take to win the presidential election in November.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gingrich super PAC releases anti-Romney movie (2012-01-12 19:04)

Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich are letting go with all guns blazing against front-runner Mitt Romney by releasing a 28-minute movie depicting Romney as a ruthless corporate raider.

Romney used the term "creative destruction" to describe the tactic of closing businesses for profit. He stated that in order for the "economy to thrive as ours does there are a lot of people who will suffer as a result of that."

The pro-Gingrich super-PAC Winning Our Future financed the film, which is titled "When Mitt Romney came to Town," and from various reports, it appears they will air it bit-by-bit in short ad spots in South Carolina before the Jan. 21 primary.

Here is the movie broken into two parts on YouTube:



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/KrKlj4Q3nSQ?rel=0>



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/8snIlMY96Bs?rel=0>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Obama 2012 Campaign Strategy (2012-01-18 17:44)

In the Time article "The 15 % Question: Why Mitt Romney's Tax Rate Matters," by Adam Sorenson, he shows why Romney's image may play an important role in Obama campaign strategy should the former Massachusetts governor win the nomination.

Obama's handlers are figuring out ways for the president to win enough electoral votes to take the election and part of the strategy will involve coming out with the right message. Recently, Obama's speeches have leaned more toward a populist approach in agreement with many of the sentiments of the Occupy movement.

Mitt Romney would make an excellent opponent for framing the issues around the growing conflict between the "99 percent" and the "1 percent."

Talking to reporters, Romney said that his tax rate is close to 15 % because most of his earnings come from investments (capital gains). That means that basically he pays a lower rate than working lower middle class Americans despite having a fortune estimated at \$250 million.

If that was not enough, a recent ABC report indicates that Romney is shielding millions of dollars of his wealth from US taxes through offshore accounts in the Cayman Islands.

Expect to see these issues resurface should Romney win the nomination. Also, expect to see the video of Romney claiming in Iowa that corporations are people played repeatedly by Obama supporters if not the campaign itself, if an Obama-Romney match-up occurs.

An Obama campaign strategy centered around a populist message will appeal to many voters still hurting from a slowly-recovering economy against the backdrop of a Republican Party that seems not to care much about creating jobs for Americans.

X

Romney critic on Bain Capital resurfaces

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2012-01-20 00:26:42)

You really make it seem so easy with your presentation but I find this topic to be actually something which I think I would never understand. It seems too complex and extremely broad for me. Im looking forward for your next post, I'll try to get the hang of it!

reXterylizereX (2012-03-24 21:16:17)

The LAST and Final steps 'In Removing Obama From Washington are upon us.

The Final Chapter of { OBAMA. } \ ' His Terrorist Connections AND his WorldWide Co-Conspirators have been REELED - in, Like Fish, on a Fishing line / Swallowing Hook, Line and Sinker, Deep Throating the Pole, up to the Steel Reel.

All of Obama's Corrupt Political Partners in Washington, have also been REELED in, like an OLD TIME Reel to Reel Movie PROJECTOR.

THEIR eXposure has successfully been Framed and They are NOW 'Seen {CAPTURED } UPON the Screen, eXposed and Literally, Snared in the VERY OWN

Sights and TRAPS, that they Themselves had set for YOU- [The Prey] The American Citizens.

These traitors, have FALLEN Head-Long, Down into the very SAME pits, that THEY themselves HAD dug for YOU, { the Game \ American Citizens.

All of Obamas Corrupted Political Partners in Washington and Terrorist Connections and Co-Conspirator WORLDWIDE, have been Snared / CAUGHT in the Jaws that they had Sprung for YOU, The American Citizens.

The Ropes and Lines of DECEPTION, TREASON and FRAUD, that They had Drawn, Planted, eXtended and INTENDED to Hang and Trip Up YOUR Freedoms { The American Patriots / Great Sons and Daughters of Liberty } Have ALL been Un Tied, Unraveled and Unstrung.

You MUST continue A Peaceful Resistance. You MUST Maintain a POSITIVE, AGGRESSIVE, firm Focus on the Facts and Truth /\

as WE Stand by OUR convictions and NEVER Fall or Surrendering to this mob of Traitors :

In Fact, THE ONLY THING in America - that was trully Needing"" CHANGE " ! Was Barry or .Barack, .Barak, .Batock, .Barok, .Barrack Hussein OR, .Soetoro OR....Obama the JR. I. or II. HIMSELF. !

Obama, has ONLY MADE criminal Changes. His Disguised, LIES and Forgeries, made TO HIS VERY OWN Name, With multiple FAKE Social Security numbers, for his entire adult life.

ALL eXXXposed. "" And Americans are NOT Impressed with his Network of Degenerate Thieves, Terrorists and RIPP OFF SCAMMERS and Cons, PARADING, Masquerading as Crack Heroes.

Obama {the Fraud } then HOPED and CHANGED himself to incorporate the criminal master-plan of his Entire Life to the CHANGING of the UNITED STATES, into HIS Dispicable, Unethical, Cowardly and Dishonorable - IMAGE.

Barack Hussein Obama II (Who HATES American Values) who is A " SELF PROCLAIMED Religious and Political Enemy" Of ALL Responsible, Morally Conscious and HARD WORKING Americans.

...The UN CHANGEABLE, Cowardly, Fraud, has done His VERY BEST to Inspire His Degenerate MOB to VIOLENCE.

LITERALLY, SayingTo his supporters.Saying "Get ready for HAND-to-HAND Combat with your Fellow Americans ! !

"I want all Americans to get in each others faces !- ^ Obama 'Demands !

"You bring a KNIFE to a fight pal, we'll bring a GUN" - ! **

THESE ARE OBAMAS very OWN WORDS.. "We talk To these folks... / so I know whose A* \$ to KICK."ALSO' Shouting THAT Republican victory would mean "Hand to Hand combat" !

....PLEASE.... go Now !— To reXes, All NEW WebsiTe ^ CLICK HERE <http://obomlnation.webstarts.com/index.html>

Please stand For Loving Children and the USA. Respectfully and Thankfully, Thank you ALL for your Time.

<http://obomlnation.webstarts.com/index.html>

Gingrich surging as South Carolina vote looms (2012-01-20 19:51)

Newt Gingrich is surging in South Carolina polls while Mitt Romney's campaign appears to be collapsing the day before the big primary.

I have viewed South Carolina as a 'king-maker' state ever since the 2008 primary and it could play the same role for the Republicans this time around unless it is a very close race. With Rick Perry dropping out of the race and conservatives appearing the recognize the need to rally around a single candidate, Rick Santorum's support appears to be drying up in the southern state.

Of the remaining conservatives, Gingrich seems to be picking up most of the votes from Perry and Santorum.

Sarah Palin thinks the interview with Gingrich's former wife just before the primary will actually help rather than hurt Newt. She may be right. Conservatives are generally suspicious of the "liberal" media and the timing of the interview may play into Gingrich's hands as he will be viewed as victimized by the "left."

If Gingrich wins, he will be in a good position to rally even more conservatives into his corner. When you do the math, it's obvious that the conservative candidates combined are well ahead of Gingrich in the overall vote count. In conservative Iowa, it appears that Santorum will actually come out the winner.

Should conservatives coalesce around Gingrich, he should become the favorite in many states where the Tea Party has established powerful get-out-the-vote machines.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/w2vySqSEhXY?rel=0>

Newt Gingrich's Explosive South Carolina GOP Debate

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Gingrich retakes frontrunner status (2012-01-21 22:04)

With Newt Gingrich's resounding victory in South Carolina tonight, he definitely moves into front runner status in my book. Just consider a few things.

South Carolina is a good barometer for voting in the entire American South. I am including delegate rich states like Texas as part of the "South." Even in states that do not have winner-take-all, Gingrich stands to gain many delegates throughout the South.

Then there are the conservative states in the Midwest and the "Rust Belt." Again, many of these states are loaded with delegates. With Sarah Palin's endorsement, he stands to do well in the northern states and all states with strong Tea Party infrastructure.

Now of course there could still be some campaign-crushing revelation that pops up and changes the course of the race, but for now I see Newt as the solid front-runner and the candidate to beat.

However, all indications points to a tough fight for the nomination that could last for a few more months at least. For the Obama campaign this is a good thing since it will mean that the super PACs will need to spend much of their money supporting their candidates rather than going after the president.

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

RIW - 50 States (2012-01-22 09:13:13)

I see the possible nomination of Newt Gingrich as a good thing for the Obama campaign.

When it comes to the general elections and the overall population of the U.S. Gingrich is not very well liked by swing voters, independents and minorities. I feel the republicans are doing themselves a big injustice by voting for Gingrich. Though on the other hand Romney is also fatally flawed and I feel is a weak candidate against Obama. With the OWS movement it would be very easy for Obama to bring Romney down.

Personally, I feel the GOP is doomed in 2012.

6.2 February

GOP primary in state of disarray (2012-02-09 19:04)

Rick Santorum's sweep of Colorado, Minnesota and the non-binding Missouri caucuses show that Republicans are still very much unsure about who to pick for the November general election. While Santorum seems to have the momentum now, there is nothing yet that shows that Newt Gingrich might not again become the conservative favorite.

The situation is extremely favorable for the Obama campaign as, the way it looks now, the nomination might only become settled during the Republican convention. This means that the candidates and their super PACs will need to spend money fighting for each state.

That would mean less money left over to contest President Barack Obama in the general election. Additionally, the longer the candidates fight it out, the more negative ads served to the public. The campaign has become intensely negative to the point that it's depressing turnout. In Florida, for example, where Romney spent a small fortune on negative advertising, turnout was poor.

In comparison, while the 2008 Democratic primary was long and contentious, there was less negative campaigning overall and turnout was generally excellent in most states.

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azhar (2012-02-14 16:13:28)
the turnout is hoped to better in the next elections...

Behind Obama's Asia pivot (2012-02-27 20:54)

The new "pivot" to Asia and specifically to Southeast Asia by the Obama administration has generated numerous theories as to the motivations behind the sudden and largely unexpected move.

Some analysts have speculated that the US has new interests in asserting its hegemony over the region. However, as a keen observer of this part of the world, it is clear to me that Obama's move is in response to recent Chinese muscle-flexing in the region.

For more than a decade now, US foreign policy has concentrated more on the Muslim world in the Middle East and Central Asia. After a generation of battling communists in Korea and Vietnam, the events of 2001 redirected focus to the "war on terror."

Aside from the pressure extended on North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program, the region, and particularly the Southeast Asian region, had receded from the American foreign policy forefront. At least that was the case from the security standpoint. The economic rise of countries like China and India, on the other hand, continued to attract significant interest.



What has changed in the region

While there have been some minor incidents in the last few decades involving the US in Asia, they have mostly faded away without much fanfare. For example, in 2001, a confrontation arose after a US EP-3 surveillance plane crashed into a Chinese aircraft near Hainan island. The Hainan nuclear submarine base is the closest point in China to the hotly-contested Spratly Islands region.

After Beijing turned over the crew of the lost aircraft, the US immediately pushed up military aid to Taiwan. There was a war of words in official and media circles for a short period, but it did not take too long for things to cool down. The recent situation, though, is much different. Starting early last year, the Chinese began a series of aggressive moves in the Spratly region, an area rich in gas and oil with disputed areas claimed by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Spoilin' in the Spratlys

While tensions in the South China Sea (or West Philippine Sea) is nothing new, the intensity of Chinese chest thumping in the maritime region is unprecedented.

In 1974, South Vietnam and China did engage in a brief naval battle over the nearby Paracel Islands. Other than that, the only real military action to take place in the Spratlys was a minor skirmish between China and Vietnam in 1988.

In February of last year, authorities in the Philippines claimed that a Chinese warship had fired on three Philippine fishing boats near Jackson atoll. Later in March, the Philippines accused Chinese vessels of harassing a seismic exploration vessel contracted by a Philippine company near Reed Bank off Palawan.

In May of the same year, Vietnam accused China of deliberately destroying cable laid out by the Binh Minh 02 oil-surveying vessel. The interesting thing about these incidents is that they did not occur in disputed areas, but within the internationally-recognized Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that extends from a nation's coastline 200 miles out to sea.

In the same month of May, the Philippines reported that two suspected Chinese fighter jets had intruded into Philippine airspace.

Trouble in India

Since the events of last spring, China has engaged in more provocative activity than in the past two decades combined, not only in disputed areas of the the Spratlys, but even within the EEZ of the Philippines and Vietnam.

However, the provocations were not limited to Southeast Asia. China is also apparently pushing its territorial ambitions far to the west in India. The two countries have always had border disputes, but the latest flareups are a matter of serious concern.

What is most astonishing is that, for the first time, China is not only challenging India to the north but also in the Indian Ocean to the south of the country. Chinese warships, including their new amphibious landing dock ship, are now frequent visitors to the Indian Ocean. They have just concluded an agreement with the Seychelles for refueling privileges and they should gain access to a port that they helped build in Pakistan soon.

The tension with India is so great that news reports this month indicate that the country is preparing for the possibility of limited war with China. New Delhi's countermeasures also include striking up a new relationship with Vietnam that includes joint exploration for resources in the country's EEZ and invitations to Indian warships to visit Vietnamese waters.

What's up?

Now clearly, it is these recent events that must be the main impetus for Washington's new pivot to Asia. Not so much because the US has so much concern about the interests of Asian nations, but more due to the threat posed by China's moves to its own interests.

So what are the reasons behind China's new assertive policy in Asia? Some have speculated that China feels trapped in a corner by Western powers seeking containment. Other theories point to fear of an "Arab Spring" type uprising in China or to the possibility that China suddenly needs more energy resources to keep its economy running.

None of these theories though draws support from the available evidence. The Western attitude toward the entire region including China has been *laissez faire* over the last decade or two. Even the North Korean nuclear tests drew, at best, a lukewarm response.

In Taiwan, nationalists have worried that the US was giving in to Chinese demands for reunification.

Internally, the recent Arab Spring movement within China does not hold a candle to the Tienanmen Square uprising

or even to the Falun Gong movement. And to the energy question, China is still an oil exporter and there is nothing in recent events that would explain any sudden need to acquire new energy sources. If anything, China's moves have been more toward renewable energy technology.

To find the real explanation behind the latest Chinese moves, I believe you need to look at developments within the Chinese armed forces.

The dragon awakens

In the March-April volume of *Foreign Affairs*, former secretary of state Henry Kissinger writes about the evolving relationship between China and the United States.

In the article, Kissinger takes special note of recent Chinese military developments: "Its invulnerable second-strike nuclear capability will eventually be paired with an expanding range of antiship ballistic missiles and asymmetric capabilities in new domains such as cyberspace and space."

During the Cold War, the Chinese nuclear arsenal was minimal, and some military experts even thought a nuclear war with China was "winnable." However, recent advances including long range submarine launched ballistic missiles now place the possibility of a nuclear exchange with China definitely in the category of "mutually assured destruction."

The latest JL2 submarine launched missile can strike New York City while docked in the harbor of Shanghai and it can carry up to four independently targeted warheads. The latest Chinese sub may carry up to 24 of these missiles and Beijing four of these subs operational with another seven or eight on the way.

Antiship ballistic missile

The ICMB shield enables China to flex its conventional might more than ever before and the most noteworthy advance in the latter field is the world's first antiship ballistic missile, the DF-21D.

What makes this missile such a game-changer is that Chinese forces can fire it from safe mobile land-based launchers and hit ships, including aircraft carriers, up to 1900 miles away. The missile can strike with pinpoint precision and even when only armed with a conventional warhead, it can potentially sink a carrier with just a single hit.

DF-21D launchers stationed on the mainland can, therefore, not only cover the entire West Philippine Sea/South China Sea, but they can also strike US ships around the waters of Japan and even off the coast of Guam! A launcher perched near the Chinese border with Bhutan and Nepal can fly across foreign territory and hit ships anywhere in the Bay of Bengal and off the coast of Sri Lanka.

A launcher on the border with North India can cover the entire Arabian Sea and western coast of India.

The DF-21D now makes it far more dangerous for US carriers to project power in the maritime regions of Southeast Asia and South Asia. Should the missile ever see deployment on submarines the threat would become even more ominous.

Other military advancements

In addition to ballistic missile capability, the Chinese have developed supersonic stealthy antiship cruise missiles and jet fighters with ranges capable of covering the entire Spratly archipelago from bases in South China.

Moreover, the Chinese appear on the road to increasing their force projection capability with three aircraft carriers on the way including an ex-Russian carrier on sea trials. They have plans on activating four more amphibious landing docks for a total of six vessels capable of long-distance sea-land missions.

All of these developments led by the active deployment of the DF-21D in 2009 seem to provide the answer behind Beijing's new-found belligerence.

The launching of the second Type 071 landing dock, the *Jinggang Shan*, may have been the last component for a force capable of challenging China's Asian neighbors. The two landing docks can act as modern flagships for amphibious invasions with their fast, air-cushion landing craft capable of launching from well beyond the sight of shore defenses.

The Pivot

China's sudden move to exert "influence" in the region apparently surprised everyone in the region and beyond. The general mode of thinking was that China would not jeopardize its standing as a premier economic power by engaging in "old school" militarism.

If China was to conquer the world, it would be through economic competition and business savvy.

While it is impossible to say for sure what has motivated China over this past year, the announcements in 2011 that China was conducting maneuvers with the carrier *Varyag* and that it was building two carriers at the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, seals the deal for me.

China apparently has achieved benchmarks that allow it believed would allow it to safely exercise control in the region, through intimidation if not through force.

However, the reaction in Southeast Asia and by America has been equally surprising to many. While Southeast Asia looks weak on paper compared to the rising dragon, it has a special strength of its own. The nation cooperates through a grouping known as the Association of South East Asian Nations or ASEAN for short.

The Obama pivot is in close alliance with this grouping and in a sense owes its origins to events linked with ASEAN.

Secretary Clinton

At first the reaction by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her department to events early last year followed the same cautious tone that characterized US policy in this region throughout the preceding decade. However, as the conflict between the Philippines and China over the Spratlys continued to escalate, the administration began formulating a new policy.

By June, Clinton announced that it was standing by the Philippines on its Spratly claims. During the ASEAN Regional Forum in July, Clinton announced that ASEAN would serve as the "fulcrum" for regional cooperation between the United States and other nations.

Then, when President Obama visited Asia and announced his pivot policy, Clinton was in Manila where she voiced support for the nation's new name for the South China Sea, i.e. the West Philippine Sea. Also, the November issue of *Foreign Policy* published Clinton's article "America's Pacific Century" in which she claimed the "future of politics" would be decided in Asia.

She writes in the article:

...President Obama will participate in the East Asia Summit for the first time in November. To pave the way, the United States has opened a new U.S. Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta and signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation with ASEAN. Our focus on developing a more results-oriented agenda has been instrumental in efforts to address disputes in the South China Sea. In 2010, at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Hanoi, the United States helped shape a regionwide effort to protect unfettered access to and passage through the South China Sea, and to uphold the key international rules for defining territorial claims in the South China Sea's waters. Given that half the world's merchant tonnage flows through this body of water, this was a consequential undertaking.

ASEAN strength in regional and international cooperation

ASEAN lies in a region that served as a crossroads for international trade for thousands of years. The ships of the spice trade sailed through these waters unimpeded. The nations in this region have a different cultural background than those of Northeast Asia where nations like China and Japan have often tended toward isolationist and xenophobic policies.

In Southeast Asia, the people are outward oriented and look at the sea not as a border as much as an extension of their territory. The strength of the ASEAN grouping is that it sees itself more a part of the world community rather than as an independent whole. Possibly, the nation's long history of maritime trade helped to forge this identity.

In this sense, it is no surprise that the nations in this region immediately began seeking external alliances when it dawned on them that China might not be all that disinterested in empire building. Naturally, they looked for help from nations that depended on these ancient sea routes.

Make no mistake about it, when Europe first "discovered" Southeast Asia, it was by no means dominated by China. The sea lanes were open and the nations were fully independent and actually they were arguably more influenced by Indian and Arab culture than Chinese. So there is something of a tradition involved in these modern disputes.

Where is Obama's pivot heading?

With the advent of China's formidable sea denial capabilities, the importance of aircraft carriers in this region is probably over. Carriers are likely to mostly stay out of harm's way. It would make little sense to place them in vulnerable areas like the Strait of Taiwan or the Spratly region.

ASEAN nations are investing more in submarines that are not vulnerable to ballistic and cruise missiles. They are also buying more advanced multirole aircraft.

Obama's pivot looks centered initially on increasing the ability of US forces to maneuver in the region. Forces will rotate at a facility in Darwin, Australia, and littoral ships will function out of ports in Singapore.

The Philippines will no doubt play an important role as will Vietnam since they basically sit at the mouth of the region for China. Philippine officials seem eager to cooperate as the country has failed to develop any significant defense capability since ending the US bases treaty in 1992.

The policy is definitely one of containment, but a containment desired not simply by the US, but by all the players in ASEAN along with India further west.

For President Obama, it could be one of the most decisive moments of his presidency. The planned end game, though, is still an open question for outside observers. However, one must wonder how long the region will be able to tolerate a China set on mastery of the region. Will the leadership in Beijing make the right "adjustment" or will we see efforts to seed a "Chinese Spring" from this new pivot alliance of nations.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Rudy Marzo (2012-04-24 05:56:48)

You created a good blog. I always make up to a point that I follow the President.
chris-crosby.net/blog/2012/03/16/americas-gas-pains/

Dompert Hermes (2012-06-02 20:49:55)

Nice article..

I love Barrack Obama..

:)

Anonymous (2012-12-01 18:30:15)

ï»¿The inescapable fact that UGG boots are no for a longer period a vogue product on each journal pattern listing has not reduced their recognition. Their pattern relevance evaporated a long time ago but their coziness, heat and practicality has turned them into the need of countless consumers currently even though they are not in vogue. They're amidst the most useful and comfortable wintertime options and are worn everyday by girls and males as favorites.

UGGs can be uncovered with very variable traits and selling prices. On the high of the scale, they are very well priced to cover their great high quality supplies. At the other facet of the scale, they are solely artificial with a appropriate rate tag.

Obtaining UGGs as a extended phrase financial investment will will need to satisfy distinctive specifications than purchasing them for one particular season. The quite ideal UGGs are of genuine, [\[url=http://www.uggsbootsoutletonline.co.uk\]](http://www.uggsbootsoutletonline.co.uk)ugg boots sale[/url] high high-quality suede, serious sheepskin lining and gum rubber or good quality plastic soles. These that price much less are commonly created with fake rubber soles, artificial suede and phony sheepskin.

Sheepskin is unusually cool in hotter weather conditions. You'll find it not one thing that can be worn comfortably in the center of summer months but it cools the ft on autumn and spring times. At the exact same time, it keeps toes warm for the duration of chilly months. It can be breathable so that ft will not collect dampness in the high temperature the way synthetics permit.

A significant grade suede would not grow to be specifically weakened in moist climate like artificial suede does. It proceeds to appear new soon after wet walks when it really is given a great waterproofing product or service ahead of worn. Repair and brushing restores its unique physical appearance just after moist weather conditions and damage is much less noticeable to see than that accomplished to synthetics.

Waterproofing solutions [\[url=http://www.uggsbootsforuksale.co.uk\]](http://www.uggsbootsforuksale.co.uk)ugg boots uk[/url] can be fairly valuable for synthetic suede. The coatings will maintain them looking new for a tiny for a longer time if worn in damp weather conditions. Gum rubber soles retain it from putting on down swiftly. Individuals who do a great deal of strolling in [\[url=http://www.uggsbootsukoutlet.co.uk\]](http://www.uggsbootsukoutlet.co.uk)-ugg boots uk[/url] their UGGs ought to obtain their gum rubber retains intact for many years.

Gum rubber absorbs shock that would otherwise bring soreness to joints and the again. When opting for a much less expensive

boot, opt for plastic earlier mentioned fake rubber mainly because the latter is extremely limited donning. Irregular erosion of the sole imbalances the stance and can trigger distressing hips and backbone.

The an individual facet that UGGs fulfill in contrast to most other wintertime footwear is in their width and toe home. These make them one of the most snug alternatives obtainable right now. The extra softness delivered by lining that's serious wool will not flatten fully with considerably standing.

When making an attempt on a boot, bear in mind that no matter of high quality, the lining will constantly flatten fairly. At first the boot should really experience a tiny far too tiny because of the improved bulk it has in the beginning. You should not decide on a dimension that is much too huge to compensate since the shoe will get as considerably as 20 % even more place right after some have on. Acquire certain observe, when fitting UGG boots, of the instep. This part, above the maximum aspect of the foot, need to be snug enough not to allow the boot to fall from the foot.

[url=http://www.einovo.net/ClientFile_C11/JH2011/bbs/viewthread.php?tid=1500334 &extra=] Comfy And Modern F[/url]

[url=<http://www.masala4india.com/newreply.php?do=newreply &p=3288370>] Clearance Uggs Significant In Your can be within just your seven times[/url]

[url=http://www.aokstone.com/member/index_do.php?fmdo=user &dopost=regnew] Uggs uggs jet traitement de security[/url]

6.3 March

A brokered convention for the GOP? (2012-03-10 17:24)

With Mitt Romney unable to establish clear dominance in the Republican primary, the possibility of a brokered convention is under intense discussion.

If none of the candidate reach the magic number of 1144 delegates, the party must find away of convincing delegates to switch from one candidate to another. In some cases, delegates are bound by law to support whoever had won the concerned race. However, many delegates and also the super delegates are free to vote for whomever they want.

Currently, with so many southern states in play, there is a strong possibility that Romney may not get enough votes. He does long strong in some of the states with winner-take-all systems, but most of these races are not until the end of the primary season.

Romney has been only getting from 25 percent to 28 percent of the vote in southern states. That may not be enough especially if he loses big in Pennsylvania against hometown favorite Rick Santorum or if he fails to win an important winner-take-all state like California.

Some analysts think that if no candidate gets the necessary number of delegates before the convention that everything will be worked out prior to the convention kickoff. However, this may be wishful thinking. Obviously there are a lot of strong feelings since even when Romney wins in the primary, he is usually taking less than the majority of votes. For example, in the all-important Ohio primary, Romney only picked up 37.9 percent of the votes.

One thing most people agree on is that the lack of a clear winner will work strongly in Barack Obama's favor. Whether the backroom dealing goes on before the beginning of the convention or during it will not probably make much of a difference. Either way, it will look like the Republicans are not strongly convinced about their nominee.

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Sam Howe (2012-04-05 13:53:13)
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y2RKK6Z>
Please take political poll.

Anonymous (2012-05-18 09:25:12)
Hi I am Hempel Schorn. Your blog is really Smart, helps greatly! Enjoy stay here.
runescape gold

How Democrats stand today (2012-03-28 15:24)

The most recent polls suggest that President Barack Obama and House Democrats today are

6.4 May

Obama vs. Romney Economics (2012-05-22 12:51)

With the Obama campaign releasing a new ad attacking Mitt Romney's record with Bain Capital, it might be a good idea of review the economic ideas of both candidates.

President Obama has stated that he believes that the way out of the jobs recession is through economic growth. He advocates repairing existing national infrastructure and, in some cases, building new infrastructure.

The president is also a strong supporter of green technology, not to keep the environment clean and safe, but also to help in achieving national energy independence. Obama wants to use the US Money Reserve as little as possible for this task. Instead, he advocates measures like rolling back the Bush tax cuts, increasing the capital gains tax, and lowering or eliminating dirty energy subsidies.

Gov. Romney, on the other hand, wants to take a course similar to his Republican predecessors in further lowering taxes especially for the upper tier of taxpayers. Romney's plan will slightly increase taxes for the poorest Americans, while establishing major breaks for the highest earning Americans.

Romney's plan closely resembles European austerity programs in that there is a major thrust toward reducing the deficit by cutting spending. Since he wants to cut tax rates at the same time, then one has to expect that Romney's cuts in government programs and jobs will be severe. His idea is that taxes hurt the private economy and that by lowering taxes further, it will stimulate growth.

However, Romney's experience at Bain Capital is not comparable to the situation of restoring the American economy. Bain Capital made money through methods often known as "predatory capitalism." The principles involved are completely different than those found in the national economy.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/TLatxTzVE4w>

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Road To Election Day 2012 (2012-05-25 00:18:28)

Republican Mitt Romney would fare better among high-level presidential candidates against Democratic President Barack Obama. But I wish President Obama should win re-election in USA 2012!Finger Crossed.....)I personally suggested you, wear Pro Obama Tshirts and show your love for President Obama.

Unknown (2012-06-06 22:35:50)

Ok so someone help me out...if rupee dollar (Indian (dot) dollar) is \$56.00 to our \$1.00 and my aunts company Solyndra that went bankrupt which Obama granted a \$535 million us dollar grant too and the owner ran off back to his country how much did he capitalize on???? And we are going to reallect him as president? I voted for him but come on REALLY JUST BECAUSE HIS TITLE HAS DEMOCRAT BEHINDE IT?... oh and today on the news he was in town but you know what they said??? (the news)??? that he don't have to even campaign in California because basically he has it sewn up...ARE WE REALLY GONNNA VOTE FOR SOMEONE WHO GIVES MONEY TO ANOTHER COUNTRY BUT OURS???

6.5 June

Obama raises more people, but loses May fundraising (2012-06-08 18:57)

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/vLRyi4FOhuk>

Mitt Romney exceeded Barack Obama for the first time in May by raising some \$76 million. The president and his team did not do bad itself raising more than \$60 million, which was a big jump upward from April.

Obama's average donation was much smaller than that of the Romney campaign and consequently the president actually had about 250,000 more donors in May. As I repeatedly noted during the primaries in 2007 and 2008, the total number of donors is important.

Having a large number of donors usually means that the campaign will have more staying power when it comes to fundraising. Many wealthy people will max out on contribution limits in a single fundraising event. Although they can continue to donate to super PACs, they will no longer be able to give directly to the campaign.

Generally, the number of donations even in this sense will drop off. When many rich people give money, they expect some "face time" directly with the candidate.

Another important factor is that small donors are probably more likely to volunteer than the really deep pockets. In my experience, I have not seen any multi-millionaires much billionaires volunteering, at least not at the grassroots level. Yes, some will act as "bundlers," but small donors also pull in extra contributors just like themselves.

Basically, people power works in so many ways that it is just something to watch. While Romney and his super PACs will no doubt raise huge sums of cash, the Obama team should at least stay competitive if they do not come out on top at the end.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Obama cares, Romney contraire (2012-06-09 09:03)

Check this out, click for full size image:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2012-06-11 14:12:17)

Get your Obama Wristbands!

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Obama-Wristband-2012-UK-/251083013277?pt=UK_Jewellery_Watches_CostumeJewellery_CA&hash=item3a75b6bc9d#ht_500wt_972

Volunteer efforts to ramp up (2012-06-09 18:29)

We should see the grassroots Obama campaign really start to pick up in the coming months. While dedicated supporters helped out during the primary, many have waited either because they did not realize that the campaign even had to organize or they thought that the campaign really did not need the help.

In comparison, the Romney campaign team is already well-oiled after fighting hard against primary opponents. Now that Romney is set to become the nominee, we should expect the number of volunteers in the Obama campaign to swell steadily as the November election date draws nearer. We should also expect to see more direct activity especially in terms of neighboring state efforts.

What this will entail is volunteers from strongly pro-Obama states taking road trips to nearby swing states. These swing states have large numbers of independent voters that can wait until the last second to choose a candidate. Another thing to look for is a growing number of grassroots fundraising efforts. The team from 2008 was particularly skilled at raising money at this level.

In the video below, President Obama speaks to the Netroots Nation 2012 conference where many veterans of the 2008 election are attending.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/oPeV5P2sBzM>

A good ol' 50-state strategy (2012-06-11 21:21)

2008 Obama campaign manager David Plouffe organized a 50-state campaign strategy in conjunction with then-DNC head Howard Dean.

A 50-state strategy in now way means that the campaign does not focus on the battleground states. Basically, it's a more holistic way of doing things. Very good for the long term future of progressive candidates as compared to more tightly-focused campaigns that concentrate on the swing states alone.

Only working in states were you are likely to win is a defensive strategy and you tend to lose ground in the long run. You know what they say, the best defense is a good offense. A 50-state strategy activates the whole national work of Democrats and progressives.

Take, for example, a state like Texas. Little chance of Pres. Obama winning there, but there are a huge number of Democrats in that state. Just going there to raise money only really activates the bundlers and deep pockets.

In order to activate all the Democrats at the grassroots, you need something more serious and at least some commitment of resources. Now, if it is done right, the activity generated will more than pay for the investment.

In 2008, for example, here in Sacramento, we opened a big office for the general election. Now, California was pretty much a sure thing for Obama then, but we were able to really get people in the region moving using this office. Not only did they campaign locally, but they made calls to battleground states and arranged trips to neighboring swing state, Nevada.

And they did a lot of grassroots fundraising that definitely would have exceeded what would have been done had they not opened an office.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Romney vs. the public sector (2012-06-12 21:32)

One has to wonder what Mitt Romney is thinking with his latest attacks on public sector workers. Does he really think that suggesting that we get rid of teachers, firefighters, police officers and other government workers will help his campaign?

Apparently, he and the Republicans are trying to blame the problems in the economy on the public sector in such a way as to rile up people in the private sector.

However this strategy has some obvious risks. For one thing, he will certainly alienate most of the people who work in the public sector along with some very powerful government worker unions including the teachers' unions and SEIU. He risks angered these workers at all levels from local to federal government. That's a lot of workers and their families.

From what can be surmised, Romney believes that the recent election in Wisconsin shows that Americans want fewer teachers, firefighters and other public sector workers. However, it is highly questionable whether this is actually the case, and I would think unlikely to be generalizable to the rest of the country even if it is true in Wisconsin.

The general profile of independent voters in swing states does not suggest people who would be adverse to their local firefighters or police officers.

Anyone with logical thinking would have to wonder how firing large numbers of government workers will help out the economy? First of all, those newly unemployed people would have to start competing for the same openings as those already out of work.

Without a job, how are those people going to keep buying stuff to keep the consumer economy running smoothly?

If people actually start to think about what Romney is saying, things could backfire on him rather quickly.

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X

Helping out with the Obama campaign (2012-06-13 19:45)

The Obama campaign allows supporters to get involved in a number of ways including:

- Calling from any location with an Internet connection.
- Hosting an event
- Attending an event
- Tweeting on the Twitter social network
- Grassroots fundraising
- Becoming a Fellow
- Volunteering in general
- Getting a paid job with the campaign

For more information, visit the official website at <http://barackobama.com>.

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Looking at the electoral maps (2012-06-15 15:18)

Want to see where Barack Obama and Mitt Romney stand in some popular electoral map projections? Here is a sampling of some the popular ones out there:

- Washington Post – Obama 237, Romney 191, Tossup 110
- New York Times – Obama 217, Romney 206, Tossup 115
- CNN – Obama 247, Romney 206, Tossup 85
- Real Clear Politics – Obama 221, Romney 170
- Huffington Post – Obama 260, Romney 191, Tossup 87
- Sabato – Obama 217, Romney 191, Tossup 130

In order to win, a candidate must garner at least 270 electoral votes. Although the maps have recently pushed downward for Pres. Obama, it has not been for any sustained period such that we could call it a trend.

Now, if we average the votes for Obama and Romney, and then take the remainder from all votes subtracted by their sum to get tossups:

Obama: 226 electoral votes

Romney: 193 electoral votes

Undecided: 119 electoral votes

The National Polls website does not allow tossups and comes up with the following projection based on polls and other data:

Obama: 296

Romney: 231



Source: Real Clear Politics



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Obama allows 'Dreamers' to stay in country (2012-06-16 19:56)

President Barack Obama announces a new Department of Homeland Security policy that exempts undocumented people who were brought to the United States as young children and that meet other criteria to be considered for relief from removal from the country or from removal proceedings.

The president tried to have the Dream Act, which would have codified the same policy, but Republicans blocked the legislation in both the House and Senate.

Many of the "Dreamers" were not even aware that they were undocumented. until they were required to show proof of citizenship. The new policy allows eligible people to "earn" their citizenship by meeting the specific qualifications that include not posing a threat to national security.

Many of these people are not guilty of any action themselves, but were merely brought into the country by their parents without documentation. The new policy is effective immediately.

The president will continue to seek legislation that will place the same policy into law.

A conservative journalist heckles the president in the middle of the speech that is shown in the video above.

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Obamacare already helping millions (2012-06-19 16:32)



Many people probably do not realize how much they are benefiting from President Obama's health care reform known as "Obamacare."

For example, young Americans, including those still in college, are now covered longer on the parents' health insurance policies.

Women have been charged up to 50 percent more for health coverage on the same plan as men. The changes in Obamacare will force insurance companies to charge women the same amount for the same coverage as men by 2014.

Additionally, insurers will be prevented from excluding people under 19 due to existing medical conditions.

To find more about Obamacare, visit the Affordable Care Act page at [barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com): <http://www.barackobama.com/health-care>.

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The power of word of mouth (2012-06-20 20:42)

Many people forget the power of word of mouth in persuading people to support a cause or a candidate.

While most campaign teams work on getting volunteers into phone banks or out walking from door to door, simply talking to people you know is one of the most effective ways in gaining support. Not that canvassing and phone-banking are essential for success because they are a necessary part of grassroots work along with publicity-type events like rallies and sign-waving.

However, just think of the power that kids have in convincing their parents or grandparents to buy them things. People tend to take advice from people that they trust. On the other hand, convincing strangers can be tough work.

For this reason, simply talking about the president to people you know can be an effective way of not only getting their vote, but also of convincing them to donate or to volunteer with the campaign. Speaking of volunteering, here is a video of voter registration activity over the weekend.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/2WXAyRvqAhg>

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Organizations, endorsements ramp up for Obama (2012-06-21 20:24)

Organizations and celebrities are activating to assist President Obama's election campaign. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) will be spending about \$85 million to help Obama in eight battleground states: Pennsylvania, Colorado, Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Maybe even more important than the money is the number of volunteers that SEIU will be able to deploy for the campaign effort.

Today, MoveOn.org announced that it was endorsing the president and that it would "invest significant time and resources into mobilizing people power to win the election and prevent a hostile takeover by the 1 %." The organization claims that 91 percent of its members who vote approved the Obama endorsement. MoveOn says that it has seven million total members.

A big personal endorsement came from Spanish TV talk show host Cristina Saralegui who is known as the "Hispanic Oprah." A Cuban American, her support may be particularly important in swing state Florida, which has a large Cuban and Caribbean community.

Expect these types of endorsements to increase in frequency as the election nears. Will try to post updates as they come in.

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First Lady Michelle Obama heads west (2012-06-23 22:12)

[EMBED]

Photos of First Lady Michelle Obama campaigning in Colorado and Nevada.

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Campaign asks supporters how to move forward (2012-06-24 20:12)

Click on this link to take a survey at barackobama.com: <https://my.barackobama.com/page/s/OFA-Feedback>. The campaign is asking supporters for advice on how to move forward in the campaign.

You can express what you think is important for voters to know about President Obama and also about his opponent Mitt Romney. The survey also asks for your advice on how to activate the president's supporters so that they will volunteer with the campaign.



The new Dashboard for volunteers to manage their campaign efforts online from any location with an Internet connection.

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It's the economic plan.... (2012-06-26 18:49)

The election will be about the economy, but more about the candidate's economic plans than anything else.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was reelected by a landslide during the depths of the Great Depression because the people knew that the Republicans were responsible for the economic conditions of the time. In the same way the GOP is also responsible for today's mess.

However, this fact alone probably would not be enough to reelect President Obama. FDR won because the people thought he had a superior plan for rebuilding the economy as compared to the Republicans who simply wanted to go back to pro-business, pro-rich policies.

For this reason, the Obama campaign will need to show that they have the better plan for the economy, which is definitely the truth. However, ordinary people might need this drilled into their heads with a lot of repetition of simple messages.

Romney basically wants to downsize the government in the same way he downsized and folded companies with Bain Capital.

However, we have seen how this type of strategy does not work. It didn't work when Herbert Hoover tried it during the Great Depression and it has not worked in Europe where most countries have implemented austerity policies since the worldwide economic meltdown began in 2007.

Democrats and progressives need to hammer this message home, not only in order to win in 2012, but to avoid a possible disastrous economic collapse. Indeed, it looks like the U.S. economy may take another hit due to the turmoil in Europe, so we need someone like President Obama in office to fight for the 99 %.

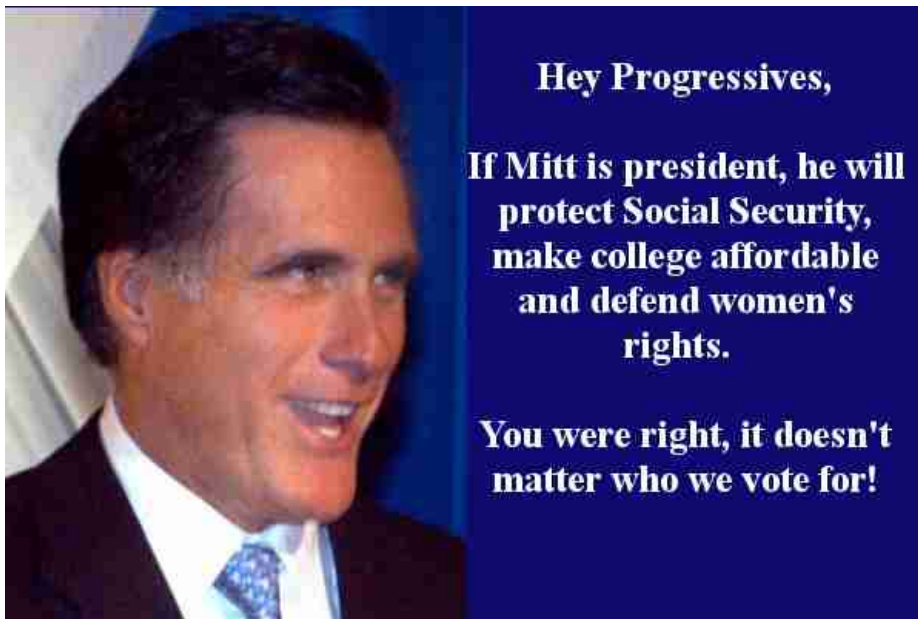


IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/oLo0Jwj03JU>

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X

Vote for Romney! (2012-06-27 15:15)



And he'll appoint great Supreme Court justices too!

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X

Supreme Court upholds Obamacare (2012-06-28 14:38)

X

IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/b5zU1y_0Geo

President Barack Obama scored a big victory today with the Supreme Court ruling upholding Obamacare. Will this have any impact on the November elections? Hard to say. It could end up motivating both sides, but I think Democrats will bet more juice when it comes to energy. This is because lots of Republicans are already suspicious of

where Romney stands on health care given his record with "Romneycare" or as some conservatives put it "Obamney-care" in Massachusetts.

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Anonymous (2012-07-09 01:27:18)

Check out obama vs mitt in the ring of who rules united state @ www.whowinsobama.com

Health reform benefits for the American people (2012-06-28 16:23)

www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform



HEALTH REFORM BENEFITS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act ensures hard-working, middle class families will get the security they deserve and protects every American from the worst insurance company abuses.

- ✓ Lets millions of young adults stay on parents' insurance until age 26
- ✓ Ends insurance company power to cap the amount of care a person can receive in their lifetime
- ✓ Stops insurance companies from canceling coverage when someone gets sick
- ✓ Lowers the cost of care for those on Medicare and helps seniors save money on their medication
- ✓ Requires insurance companies to cover preventive services like mammograms free of charge
- ✓ Strengthens and protects Medicare by increasing penalties for fraud
- ✓ Stops insurance companies from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions
- ✓ Ends insurance company power to jack up rates without justification
- ✓ Provides Americans with rebates from insurers who spend too much on CEO bonuses or ads
- ✓ Gives tax credits to small business owners so they can afford to offer quality health care for employees
- ✓ Builds and improves hundreds of community health centers
- ✓ Gives hard-working Americans tax credits so they can afford insurance beginning in 2014
- ✓ Ends discrimination against adults with pre-existing conditions beginning in 2014
- ✓ Prevents insurance companies from charging women more than men and overcharging those who need care the most beginning in 2014
- ✓ Creates state-based marketplaces where people can easily compare and shop for insurance beginning in 2014



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Leveraging the president's momentum (2012-06-29 18:23)

[EMBED]

The Obama campaign is enjoying some big wins lately with his decision to implement a Dream Act-like policy, the Supreme Court rulings on the Arizona immigration law and Obamacare, and today the vote in Congress to extend low student loan interest rates for another year.

With things surging now, it is a good time to take advantage of the momentum by recruiting more people into the campaign. Asking them for money is okay, but after they contribute they may feel they have done their part. Getting them involved in a fun way keeps them active all the way until election time.

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BaldEagleJ (2012-07-03 17:54:57)

This Independence Day help fight LAPD corruption and free speech. Join/Donate to the Walker Legal Defense Fund.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_donations&business=jwalkerolive%40gmail%2ecom&lc=US&item_name=Walker%20Legal%20Defense%20Fund¤cy_code=USD&bn=PP%2dDonationsBF%3abtn_donateCC_LG%2egif%3aNonHosted

(2012-06-30 18:18)

6.6 July

(2012-07-06 13:07)

Keeping the right perspective on fundraising (2012-07-07 14:06)

The news from Mitt Romney's campaign is that the candidate and the RNC were able to raise about \$100 million in June. That's a hefty sum although still well off the all-time mark of \$150 million set by the Obama campaign in 2008. However, the election is not likely to be won by money alone. The most important factor concerning money is that the campaign have enough money to get its message out. So long as the Obama folks keep some money in their treasure chest for the last few weeks of the election, they should be fine.

At a certain point, money does not make so much a difference as the issues. If the candidate has enough money to get the message out, they will compete with their opponent on the issues. It doesn't matter how much the opponent spends repeating their message.

Money makes much more of a difference in races where the opponent cannot get the message out sufficiently. Generally, this means hitting each targeted voter at least three or four times with key points that differentiate the candidate from all of the others in the race.

The one thing that the campaign does not want to do is panic, since that will spread through the ranks. President Obama's strength is in people and many of these people are barely making ends meet during these tough economic times. So they have to be careful in not scaring people away from getting more involved by overly soliciting for donations.

They need to exude confidence and leverage the advantages that they have and that means getting more people involved.

X

IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/Nek_J14uMGI

Volunteer

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X

Still waiting for Obama numbers (2012-07-07 14:32)

Note that the Obama campaign has not released its numbers for June, so we can't say for sure that they are behind Romney. Even if they are behind, we don't know by how much.

While it's difficult to say how much the campaign will need to get its message out, the general cost of an ad campaign in the battleground states seems to be around \$20 to \$25 million. So, if the campaign ran one of these each month, then you would have to add to this amount the operational expenses for the offices, staff, ground campaign, etc.

Probably in the last few weeks, they will spend maybe double or triple this amount on ads, maybe more.

In the 2008 election, the Obama campaign spent \$235,974,838 on TV ads between April 3 and November 5. That averages out to about \$33.7 million a month, although a larger portion was spent during the latter part of this period just before the election.

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X

Jobs reports (2012-07-08 16:48)

The latest government jobs report is not great and there are four more reports of this kind left before the Nov. 5 election.

Due to the financial crisis in Europe, there is more than a small possibility that some or all of these reports could be discouraging no matter what the Obama administration does.

European and US banks have become increasingly intertwined. The financial crisis that occurred in 2007 hurt both the US and Europe. The banks in the United States and Europe lend to each other and they fund big projects across the "pond."

Because the crisis is so severe, it is bound to have an impact here in the United States. Money for new investments in business or to keep already existing companies afloat is drying up on both sides of the Atlantic.

Potentially, this could hurt the Obama campaign, but there are ways to handle these jobs reports. First of all, they could discuss as much as possible other important issues. As Fareed Zakaria noted, despite the harsh economy, most people are employed.

However, there is not getting around the importance of maintaining a good jobs market. Therefore, the Obama administration will simply have to lay things out in a manner which everyone can understand.

While the US economy may still be rough, it is nothing compared to what is going on in much of Europe. This is because Europe chose a path of austerity – cutting spending – similar to what Mitt Romney and the Republicans want to do here.

Europe took the wrong path, but these problems are starting to spill over into our borders. What we do not want to do is follow this same plan of making deep spending cuts and, in the process, destroying the jobs and consumer market!

The Obama campaign has to make it clear that the Romney/GOP plan will spell doom to an economy that was just beginning to recover. Another thing that the administration may need to address is how to help stabilize things in Europe.

The president has started talking about this and they really need a plan because the situation there is very serious. If a nation like Italy, or even France, has problems similar to those plaguing Greece, then the repercussions can be extremely harmful.



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stankamerican (2012-07-25 07:26:52)

Keep pointing out that the Republican controlled Congress refuses to pass the President's job bill due to their selfish desire to keep the economy as weak as possible in order to further their hopes of assuming the Presidency.

Are the Republicans Patriots or Punks?

stankamerican (2012-07-25 08:15:05)

Open letter to Pres. Obama,

Mr. President allow me to introduce you to who I am.

I am an 80 year old who was born into an America whose Pres. was F.D.Roosevelt.

I became aware as my mind matured that my family was poor, living on home relief. You see my father was out of work for years there was a Depression. Only through Pres. Roosevelt's concern for humanity was it that this country created a job for my dad under his WPA program.

This great President became a beloved figure of the masses he cared for and I would like to believe he loved them back.

As you might imagine I support you because I believe you do care for the 98 % and because you understand what Roosevelt represented.

I hereby offer to you and your party whatever I can do to help you to be reelected.

I have made a small financial donation to your campaign even though I am almost bankrupt.

If I may make a request it is that you stand behind Pres. Roosevelt's vision of a comfortable old age for his people. He envisioned a society covered by a program called Social Security. I am sure he and his advisors foresaw an America whose Senior population after making contributions to their pensions from their lifetime of working year salaries, would be dwarfed by the continued growth of a younger population and the resultant growth in employment and revenue.

Never in his most troubled nightmares would he imagine a Congress and a Senate that would vote to send our jobs offshore without so much as a consideration of some tax to support his concept of supporting seniors in their old age. No less a President that would not Veto such a damaging bill.

I therefore request that our politicians, who have been granted the privilege of representing their constituency, be covered by the selfsame Social security and Medicare they are so freely willing to cut. They should Immediately rescind their privileged and free retirement program and superior health care programs that they voted for themselves paid out of the mandated taxes of the average american workers hard earned salaries before tampering with Pres. Roosevelt's dream.

StankAmerican

Poll numbers (2012-07-10 15:02)

While some folks appear to be in panic over Mitt Romney's fundraising numbers, the polls show that President Barack Obama continues to hold a strong position.

While it looked for awhile that his lead in battleground states might be sagging, the most recent polls suggest a possible comeback. Just today a PPP survey showed the president leading in the important state of Virginia by eight points.

A Gallup poll of swings states showed Obama with a slight lead, actually a statistical tie – but it also showed that people are becoming even more disillusioned with Romney. Apparently, the Obama campaigns TV and other ads are working. The poll also showed the president with a slight edge on who is better to lead the economy.

So far, the Obama campaign has outspent Romney in advertising by a wide margin. In May, Obama spent about \$31 million on TV and online advertising. A lot of Romney's money is actually going to pay for fundraising expenses. These costs may arise from the swank events that his campaign must arrange for their many deep pocket investors.

An ABC/Washington Post poll also had encouraging news for the president. It showed that about three quarters of those who will vote for him, actually support the president. In contrast, nearly two-thirds of Romney supporters said their main motivation was their opposition to Obama.

What this could mean is that the president's supporters will be more active when it comes time to get out the vote. Other polls have also shown that Obama support base is more enthusiastic than Romney's.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

(2012-07-12 18:33)

Today's revelation in the Boston Globe threatens to unravel Mitt Romney's campaign for the presidency. The report shows that Romney was still listed as

Romney scrambling after Bain revelation (2012-07-13 17:30)

Mitt Romney's campaign has been playing defense after a report in the Boston Globe calling into question their statements about when the candidate left Bain Capital.

The new information suggests that either both Romney and the campaign were not telling the truth when they claimed the candidate left Bain in 1999, or there were errors in the company's SEC filings from 1999 through 2002.

Given that Romney appears to have been at least the sole stockholder and board chair at the time, he could be guilty of a felony since he signed SEC filings stating that he was acting at the time as CEO and president of the company.

The Bain attacks are potentially devastating not only on their own, but in the sense that they suggest that Romney is every bit as secretive as Democrats have been suggesting. This will tie in very well with attacks on the GOP candidate for not releasing more of his tax records.

Additionally, there reportedly is information that Romney may have claimed he was active at Bain during his campaign for Massachusetts governor. Just today, a report from Jed Lewison at Daily Kos reveals that Bain Capital issued a press release dated July 19, 1999 that indicates Romney was still working "part-time" as the company's CEO.

According to Romney he had retired from Bain in February, 1999.

These revelations may have a strong impact on whether voters will be able to trust the candidate or not. Many voters, even among Republicans, already do not like Romney, but their dislike of Pres. Obama is enough for them to grudgingly support the apparent Republican nominee.

The Romney campaign has not been doing a very good job at handling the news suggesting to some that they are in a bit of disarray. Possibly, members of the campaign team are as surprised as anyone else about this news and they may want their candidate to come clean with them so they know what to expect in the future.

✕

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✕

Five-O (2012-07-15 19:46:31)

Mr. Obama,

You continue to endear yourself to half of the country while alienating the other half.

Romney for President. Save this country as we knew it, not as you and your ilk desire it to be.

Joe in Oregon

Anonymous (2012-07-15 23:27:33)

These Bain questions will continue to haunt Romney. Seamus The Dog is still haunting him too... now there's a seamus the dog video game you can play: seamus-the-dog.com

Anonymous (2012-07-19 12:09:23)

I jsut saw the Commercial knocking Romney. Bull, Romney was just being a good businessman using the tax breaks given by a corrupt government.

Anonymous (2012-07-24 19:56:26)

I am a democrat and plan to vote for President Obama again this year. I will say, however, that the commercial with Romney singing America is in the worst taste of all of the negative ads I have seen. Anyone singing America, whether he's your candidate or not, does not need this kind of negative commentary. I believe it hurts the President and make him look common. I know he is a smart man and a great leader but the person(s) responsible for this ad should be fired and the President should pull it ASAP.

aaronwemple/tweetme (2012-07-30 17:58:51)

Dear Obama: What would you do about the civil war declared in your home state? (Saw it at the courthouse, and uprightusa.org)

Barackobama.com needs to step up SEO (2012-07-17 19:07)

A cursory check on the major search engines Google, Yahoo and Bing suggests that President Obama's team has not been keeping up with search engine optimization.

This is quite a far cry from 2008 when the Obama team dominated the search engines.

For example, I tried both personalized and the anonymous search on Google using the search terms "Obama job plan" and "Obama jobs plan." The official campaign website, <http://barackobama.com>, did not show on the first page of results!

When I did a Google search for "Romney job plan" and "Romney jobs plan," the official Romney website, <http://mittromney.com> came up on the top of the first page!

Furthermore, the results for the Obama search featured more negative results lambasting the president's jobs plan compared to the Romney jobs search.

When I searched for a related search query "Obama economic plan," barackobama.com came up only in fourth place in the list of results. However, again the search for "Romney economic plan" had the official campaign website at the very top of the search page.

A search for "Obama tax plan" produced results with the official Obama site near the bottom of the page while "Romney tax plan" had the official Romney site in second place.

The news results on these pages are more favorable for the president possibly indicating his superior press outreach. However, it is uncharacteristic for the official website to appear so low for important queries.

Another important search term "Obamacare" does not turn up either the campaign site or the White House site on the first page. At the very top of the results is an article from Conservapedia, a resource for political conservatives!

If I type in "Obama health care" though, the picture improves favorably with multiple links for both White House and campaign site.

Given the importance of economic issues, though, I think the campaign needs to get moving more on SEO. Many people use the Internet to get most of their information including on major political issues, so they need to be vigilant on what is happening on the online battlefield. For example, try a search for "health care mandate." The results could use a lot of improving. A dedicated SEO team should be able to turn things around fairly quickly.



Young Americans for Obama organized and made calls together in Iowa this week—to join in, sign up to volunteer for an upcoming event near you.

Volunteer

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Romney to pick VP after Olympics (2012-07-19 22:05)

According to multiple news sources, Mitt Romney will hold off announcing his pick for vice president until after his European trip. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee will attend the Olympic Games to watch his wife's horse compete in equestrian events.

Romney will also have a couple of big fundraisers in London organized mainly for bankers and business tycoons.

While Romney may have already selected his running mate, he will likely wait until after the Olympics to make an announcement since the competition would distract people's attention.

The decision to attend the Games is rather curious as there are only three and a half months to go before the election. Originally, the Romney campaign said that their candidate would not attend because he would be too busy campaigning.

President Obama will not attend the Games, but the First Lady will instead lead the U.S. Olympic Team in London.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/OMSqU1uFNFM>

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Why is Obama spending so much more than Romney? (2012-07-25 12:31)

From the campaign filings, it is clear that Barack Obama's campaign is spending much more than Mitt Romney's campaign on things like TV ads and just about any other type of expenditure. There are two obvious reasons for this discrepancy.

First of all, the Romney campaign has lots of cash that can only be spent during the general election. This comes from wealthy donors who gave the maximum amount during the primary and then donated again for the race against the Democratic nominee. These funds will only be available after the Republican convention.

For the Obama campaign, they still have plenty of cash that was not spent during the primary. The Obama donors are mostly regular people who give small amounts on a periodic basis. Most of them will never come close to reaching the campaign contribution limits. So, the Obama team has less restrictions on the money it can spend early.

The other clear reason for early spending is the need to counter the attacks from pro-Romney super-PACs. Although Obama also has super-PACs on his side, they got off to a late start and are just beginning to catch up on fundraising. So, the Obama campaign has had to fight off the Romney super-PAC attack ads.

Why more positive ads are needed

While it is important to counter some of the negative ads from the Romney side, it is equally important to avoid getting too caught up in this exchange.

Every time the campaign broadcasts a negative ad against Romney, the president must declare in his voice "I am Barack Obama and I approved this message." This can end up hurting the president's favorability ratings and even his approval ratings.

The campaign should concentrate more money on ads like "The Choice" pasted in the video below. These ads can help improve the president's image and likeability factor. As the campaign moves closer to Nov. 6, the Obama team should leave more of the counter attack ads to pro-Obama super-PACs and labor unions.

What the campaign wants to emphasize is the president's vision for the future and why voters should choose him over Mitt Romney.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/FBorRZnqtMo>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2012-07-27 15:14:45)

Regarding tv ads: I believe that, unfortunately, negative ads work. However, it depends on the ad.

There is an ad that is frequently seen in New York (and also in Florida) in which Romney is heard singing America, the Beautiful. Printed on the screen, but not heard, are a series of legitimate criticisms of Romney.

People get up and move around during commercials and can miss what's printed on the screen. The only way the Romney criticisms can make an impact is if they are heard.

I cringe every time this ad comes on - I think it's a waste of campaign funds.

Anthony Nelson (2012-08-07 09:50:56)

The election should not be based on who has more money. They need to take care of the American People. We need someone that is not in there to say look at me I'm the president. It needs to be someone where we know their background and not with a lot of things missing. The presidential race has gotten more about the money and not about The People.

Bobby Munizza (2012-08-12 20:01:26)

Obama spending so much is showing ou exactly why we are in debt. He doesn't care about this country he just wants to look good, when really he's a goof. Look at what Romney did by saving the olympics of 2002 in Salt Lake City! He pulled in all that money and made the U.S have the Olympics so he is highly capable of pulling this great country back to its glory. Obama is the most idiotic politician seen and has no economic sense. Sometimes the peoples choice isn't always to best choice!

VOTE WILLARD MITT ROMNEY FOR
PRESIDENT 2012!

100 days to go (2012-07-29 14:54)

Today marks 100 days until the Nov. 6 presidential election. Both the Obama and Romney campaigns are no doubt gearing up for the real battle that starts about now or even more so right after Labor Day.

One thing about being this close is the narrative about the economy becomes less and less relevant with each passing week. Of course, if there is a major meltdown, this could change. However, right now it seems despite some bad signs for the economy that it should not decline all that much over the next three months.

The economy did not do that great in the previous three months, but it seems not to have had much impact on the president's job approval ratings, which have remained about the same. While I'm sure no one is happy about the economy, the probability of it having a much greater impact shrinks the closer we get to Nov. 6 without anything calamitous happening.

Over the weekend, the Obama campaign has been having their "It Takes One" action weekend sponsored by the First Lady Michelle Obama. The effort is a dry run for the big voter mobilization effort that will kick up especially in the weeks before Nov. 6.

One easy way to help if you can't afford to spend time volunteering yet, is to donate your Facebook and/or Twitter status to Rock the Vote to help register new voters. Here's the URL to sign up:

<http://donateyouraccount.com/RockTheVote>



X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/Ua4cg9VG9nU>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Michael (2012-08-02 02:32:59)

Very well said here. Its 95 days from today to held up these elections for presidency. Every people is the US has excitement regarding to these elections and both the candidates are running their campaigns to get more popularity from the peoples. Obama 2012 t shirts

Nora Poggi (2012-08-07 08:06:43)

Just discovered this blog, thank you for all the information provided. My film company is working on the post production of a short film based on a true story, about three brothers whose lives changed on Election Day 2008. We want this film to see the light of day and be a part of Obama's campaign now. If you are interested, please check out our Indiegogo campaign or our Facebook page- thanks for your help! <http://www.indiegogo.com/forspacioussky>
<http://www.facebook.com/ForSpaciousSky>

6.7 August

Romney ready to announce VP choice (2012-08-02 12:10)

Mitt Romney is set to announce his VP pick any time now. I tend to think he may go for a more neutral choice that will anger as few people as possible while keeping most of the attention on himself. In other words, a boring pick like Tim Pawlenty.

However, he faces some pressure from the Tea Party to "balance" the ticket with a person perceived as a true conservative. Romney has not made much of a turn toward the "middle" since becoming the presumptive GOP nominee. For example, his rhetoric during his trip to Israel including support for Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, a stance that is highly inflammatory. Indeed, the Israel trip seems targeted at religious conservatives within his own party more than toward Jewish voters.

Additionally, his trip to Poland looks aimed at focusing on his tough stance toward Russia. Romney claimed during the primary that Russia was 'public enemy no. 1' and these views sit well with many conservatives.

Therefore, there is a possibility that he may choose a VP that will appeal to the Tea Party.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

How to support Barack Obama online (2012-08-02 14:15)

While the campaign would rather have you participating in targeted activities like canvassing and phone banking, not everyone will have unlimited time for that kind of work.

However, people these days spend a lot of time online regardless of where they are at. The expansion of mobile broadband networks and Wi-Fi hotspots along with the increasing popularity of smart phones and other mobile devices means that people are accessing the Internet from almost any location.

If you do not have your own website or blog, the main way to help out with the campaign online is through social media. Nearly everyone today is on these sites, which include Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google+.

Supporting the president online works in much the same way as conventional social network marketing employed by businesses and other organizations. Here are some tips for beginners and more experienced social networkers on how to help the Obama campaign online.

-

Music Video: The Obama Smackdown (2012-08-08 16:08)

More grassroots-produced media coming out in support of Barack Obama including this catchy music video.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/tffuSjFtoPw>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Three polls suggest Obama surge (2012-08-10 15:30)

Three new polls show Barack Obama is widening his lead against Mitt Romney in the presidential race.

The polls come from CNN, Reuters/Ipsos and Fox News. According to the New York Times' Nate Silver, CNN has the lowest "house bias" of the popular polling services. Ipsos has a strong Democratic bias while Fox News, not surprisingly, tilts strongly for Republicans.

Therefore, the fact that all the polls show a rather high single-digit lead for Obama is significant. In fact, the Fox News poll gives the president a nine point lead, higher than in the other two polls.

The CNN poll shows Obama over 50 percentage point threshold. while both the Fox News and the Reuters/Ipsos poll show Obama just barely below that threshold.

All the polls show the president leading among independent voters. Another strong indicator suggests that Romney is suffering from image problems. People do not like him and tend to have a suspicious view of his business and financial history. This would suggest that some of the Democratic ads may be having an impact.

However, as Christine Pelosi noted on her Facebook page, Romney has not spent much money defining who he is. Instead, he has mainly concentrated on attacking his opponent. Not that the president and his supporters have not done their share on offense. However, we have also seen more efforts by the Obama campaign to highlight his vision for a second term.

Indeed, people seem to already have a good idea of who Obama is and what he stands for. The same is not true for Romney.

With less than three months left until the election, the Romney camp has a choice. They can keep concentrating on attacking the president or they can shift more resources into showing who Mitt Romney is and where he wants to lead the country.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-08-15 04:38:13)

I believe in president Obama and plan to support him again this year. I followed him because he truly cares about Americans. He has walked a mile in our shoes.

I believed in his kindness and honesty. The campaign has become negative on both sides. I would like to see President Obama rise above the negative campaign and be the man he was in 2008.

Do not stoop to Romney's level. Fight fire with water. Americans believe in Obama and will stand behind him. Use facts that you can prove. Romney is going to bury himself.

President Obama inherited a great deal of debt when he took office. We were in the middle of a war. What does Romney

expect? President Obama has strived to keep his campaign promises. He believes in America. Stand behind Obama once again.

Anonymous (2012-08-25 17:15:40)

Yes, this election is going to be a landslide for Obama. No need to even go vote. Easy win. I mean it's not like your vote really counts that much anyways. So I what I am doing and stay home.

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan: Back to the Failed Top-Down Policies (2012-08-12 19:20)

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/oWyk-Mr6cfc?fs=1> M

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/oWyk-Mr6cfc?fs=1>

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/oWyk-Mr6cfc?fs=1> Mitt

Mitt Romney's choice for VP is an obvious offering to conservatives and the Tea Party, the base of the Republican Party.

He's giving up on many independents with this move probably banking more on good turn out rather than persuading undecided voters.

Will comment more on this later.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Nora Poggi (2012-08-13 11:32:44)

My company is in post production of a short film based on a true story, about three brothers whose lives changed on Election Day 2008 when President Obama was elected. The clock is ticking to finish the film, so that it can fulfill its intended purpose to be a part of the conversation in this year's election season, which is why we need your help to share our Indiegogo campaign with the world. We hope the film can make a positive change leading up to the election. Check out the trailer here, and help us spread the word and tell this story! Thanks! <http://www.indiegogo.com/forspacioussky>

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan plan to end Medicare as we know it (2012-08-15 15:10)

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/UH5dEPbB5yQ?fs=1>

Paul Ryan seems like almost a "gimme" to Democrats in the sense that he is so vulnerable to attack on the Social Security and Medicare issues.

Mitt Romney seems to have decided that he cannot win many undecided voters. He's going with his base instead. Normally, the announcement of a vice presidential running partner results in a "bounce" in the polls, but Romney-Ryan may be lucky to get any positive readings this time around.

The Romney campaign may also be hoping for a bounce during their upcoming national convention. The Democratic convention occurs in September in Charlotte, North Carolina. The race will really move into hyper drive after that last convention with both sides buying up huge amounts of air time.



Find your office

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Grassroots fundraising (2012-08-17 13:38)

I'm doing some grassroots fundraising. The link for my page is here:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/2012/kekai>

Trying to raise \$200. I'll post some poems and other items with this link over the month of August, so please donate if you like something that you see!

For sector public, you work your magic

You give your time, invest your talent

Through thick and thin, with no onion skin

You fight the fight, you strive to win

Now, come two men – Romney and Ryan

Intent to send your sector flyin'

No quarter, no honor, no bonus, no tribute

In order to fight them, we all must contribute!

Click here to donate!

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Weekly Address: Congress Should Back Plan to Hire Teachers (2012-08-18 13:08)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/ndkUaQ5HsBk?fs=1>

President Obama speaks on his educational agenda, specifically on a plan to hire more teachers.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-08-20 17:55:21)

Exactly TRUTH! and eventually somewhere down the line in lifeEveryone WILL BE F*kked worse off than they have ever beenwe will sink quicker in society's pool of quicksand.

'United We Stand, Divided We Fall' Not just the ...

See More

Democrats tie Akin 'legitimate rape' comments to Romney-Ryan
news.yahoo.com

Democrats are trying to tie Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to GOP Rep. Todd Akin's claim that victims of "legitimate rape" rarely get pregnant, accusing Republicans of trying to drag women back to "the dark ages." "Akin's choice of words isn't the real issue here," Democratic National Committee Chair Deb...

Like · · Share.

Pat Hartmann Back and Forth judgement NEVER gets anyone where they want to go, Build continuously, DO NOT GO BACK.
about an hour ago · Unlike · 1.

Pat Hartmann There is only 4 % of the US who are TRULY Wealthy, compared to what was before the Twin Towers Event. Bush put us there, NOT Obama. No One sole person can change ALL and make everyone HAPPY in 4 years. NO ONE! and certainly NOT YOU! as one.

about an hour ago · Unlike · 1.

Pat Hartmann Statistics have and show ALL proof Republicans PUT US there, Democrats, PULL US out! Educate YOURSELVES and KEEP US there, DO NOT GO BACK! Statistics PROVE Republicans are wealthy and have been wealthy and do not understand and/or care, Democrats have bEEn there. They came from the STREETS as the unwealthy to only try as a human against ALL ODDS to make things BETTER. TRUTH! KEEP building, DO NOT GO BACK again.

about an hour ago · Unlike · 1.

Pat Hartmann The streets of CHICAGO NEED to JOIN as ONE to have the BACK of one for the state of ILLINOIS as ONE, to MAKE others STATES as ONE to have the back of ILLINOIS as ONE to have the back of ALL States as ONE, to BUILD and MAKE ALL states as ONE again as a WHOLE to Society to PROVE CHICAGO CAN DO this and MAKE AMERICA the Beautiful again. No one knows this better than the majority of the Streets of the unwealthy, as is New York too. PROVE IT! Let's ALL stand UP as ONE again to MAKE IT! " ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE" PROVE IT!

about an hour ago · Unlike · 1.

Pat Hartmann Statistics have shown and has been proven that the streets of CHICAGO and the STREETS of NEW YORK have been the sole MAJORITY of the unwealthy against all odds of the MAJORITY to the WEALTHY, GO AGAINST ALL ODDS and take the chance to PROVE IT! WHO's got who's back! SHOW everyone no matter what the outcome, WHO can TRULY come from the deepest of DEPTHS to continue to MAKE one NATION keep building. Make the effort and PROVE IT!

about an hour ago · Unlike · 1

Show us your papers (2012-08-18 13:59)

Show us your papers, enforcers say
stopping our car along the way
Skin too dark, look not quite right
Failing tests of appearance white
Children of a migrant journey
Exodus to a land of honey
To save their dream, comes a president
Time for dreamers to represent!

Click here to donate!

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Getting out the vote amidst voter suppression (2012-08-25 21:23)

The efforts by Republicans to suppress the vote in many states is deplorable, but there are some things that can be done to counter these moves.

- Firstly, efforts should be made to register every eligible voter. Too many Americans that can vote are not even registered.
- Attorney General Eric Holder should continue his valiant efforts to shut down voter suppression laws that violate the Constitution or federal law.
- Just in case some laws remain intact, every effort should be made to ensure voters get the identification they need to vote. To find out what you need, check out this website: <http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections/elections/voter-id.aspx>. In some cases, you may be able to just bring documents like your birth certificate on the election day. For more info on what to bring: <http://www.gottavote.org/en/CA/?source=footer-nav>
- The Democratic Party also is holding training sessions in the concerned states on how to get voter identification.
- Plan on how you will vote. The best way is to register to vote by mail. If you are voting on election day, schedule your day in detail. Set up automatic reminders on [gottavote.org](http://www.gottavote.org).
- Check to make sure that your family and friends have voted.
- If you see any strange activity going on the polling area, report it to the proper authorities. Don't let anyone intimidate you when you are trying to vote.
- Are You a Lawyer?

Become a Victory Counsel and commit to volunteer your legal expertise toward our voter protection efforts in the months to come.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



More on defeating voter suppression (2012-08-26 11:37)

In my previous article, "Getting out the vote amidst voter suppression," I discussed some ways of tackling voter suppression efforts going on in certain states.

Another major factor will be organizational get out the vote operations. For example, the AFL-CIO's super-PAC Workers' Voice and MoveOn.org recently announced that they will combine forces to encourage voting in battleground states. They plan on making about 1.5 million phone calls by Nov. 6.

The Obama campaign and the Democratic Party will also launch their voter turnout efforts, which will be quite expansive. Additionally, many progressive organizations have major get out the vote operations including:

- League of Women Voters
- League of Conservation Voters
- Rock the Vote

Other organized labor organizations and minority advocated groups like the NAACP will have their efforts to complement those above.

A recent Suffolk University/*USA Today* poll suggests that Barack Obama has a large lead among people who are unlikely voters. Therefore, Obama and also probably Democrats in general should benefit from more people going to the polls. The poll also suggested that many of these unlikely voters would be willing to vote if given a little nudge.

After Labor Day, many people who have been sitting on the sidelines up to now will start volunteering more with campaigns. We should see action really start to pick up at that time.

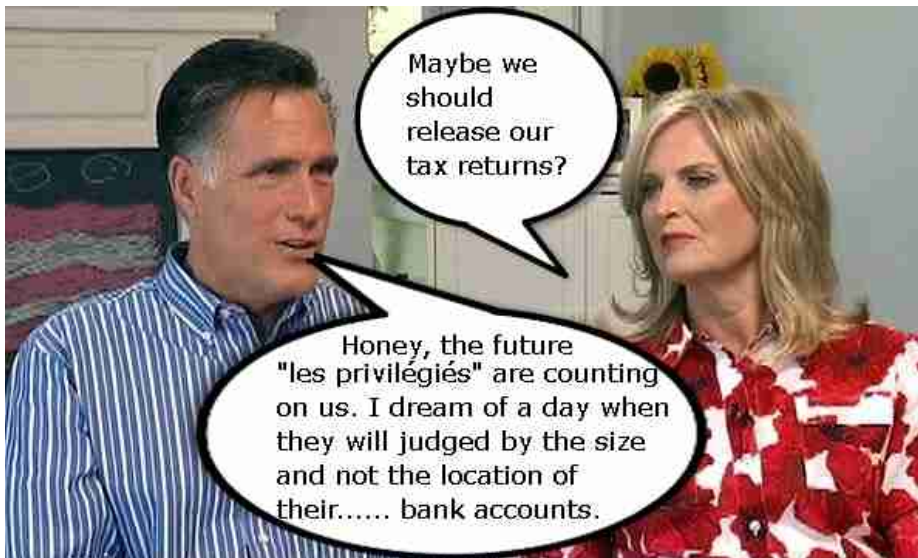
For the Obama campaign, turning out voters may make the difference between victory and defeat. Additionally, it could also influence who controls the House and Senate.



President Obama samples a baked zucchini fry in the Old Family Dining Room after the Kids' State Dinner Aug. 20, 2012. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Mitt and Ann discuss tax returns (comedy) (2012-08-27 12:08)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

What to watch for at GOP Convention (2012-08-27 14:43)

The national conventions of both major American political parties are gatherings of the faithful. In each case, the ideological base of the party shows up in very high percentage.

For Mitt Romney, this is problematic. He has never been popular with his party's base. Polls consistently show that supporters of President Barack Obama are more enthusiastic when compared to Mitt Romney's supporters.

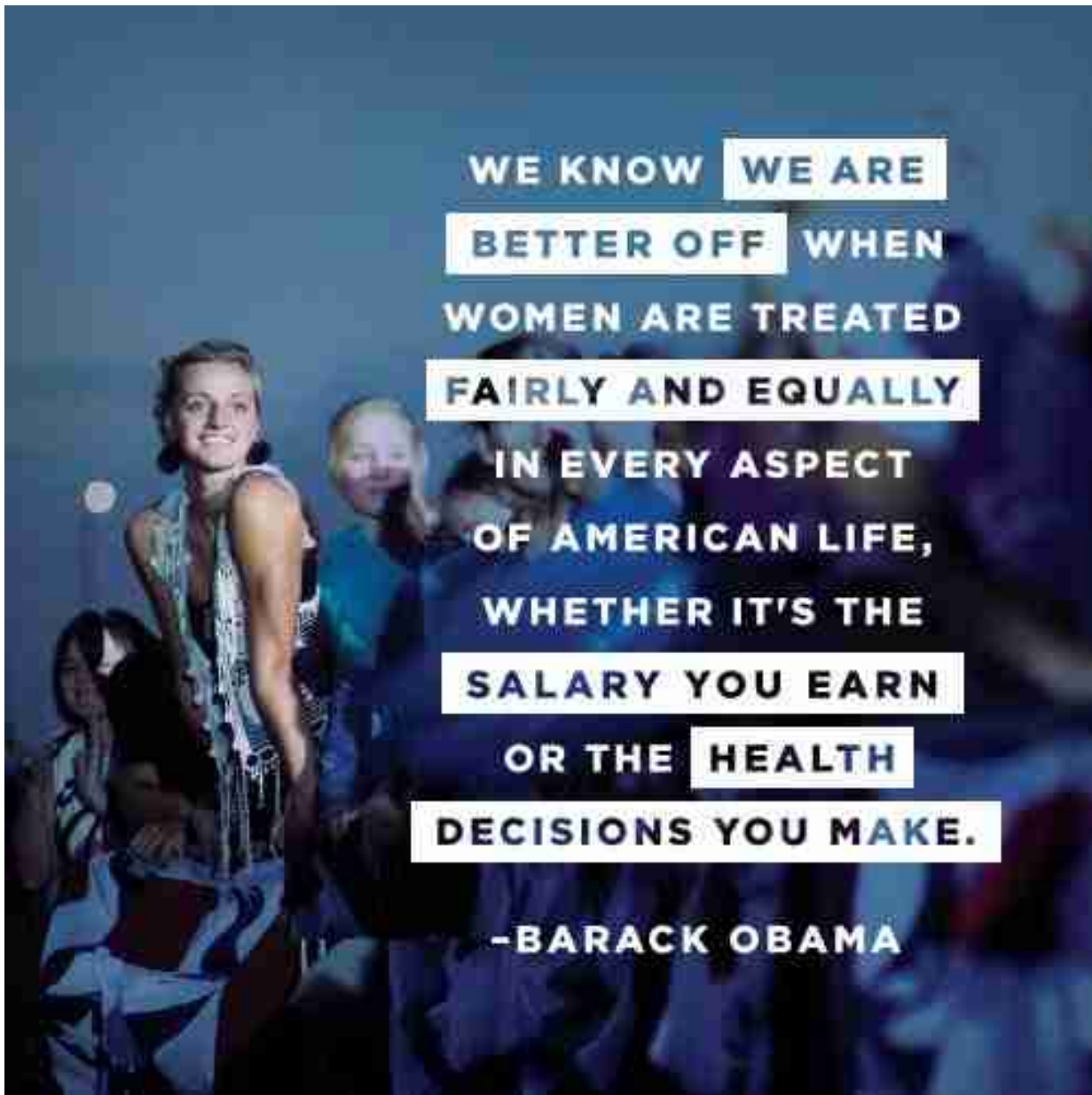
The national convention serves as a point in which the parties rally behind their nominees and begin mobilizing at a much faster pace in the field. In a way, it is like a massive national pep rally. For Romney and his close followers, the convention will largely be about convincing his skeptics that he deserves their energetic support.

Back when it became obvious that Romney would be the Republican nominee, I knew that he would not reset too much toward the "center" as some were predicting. Like another noted moderate, Sen. John McCain, he could not wiggle his way out of commitments made during the primary contest.

Like McCain, Romney chose a Tea Party favorite, a very risky favorite, in Rep. Paul Ryan. Watch Mitt Romney's speech when he accepts his party's nomination and, I believe, you will see more of the same. He will go out of his way to appeal to the ideological right wing.

Indeed, surrogates will probably spend much of their time during the convention trying to convince Tea Party members and other conservatives that they can trust Romney on key issues.

President Obama and the Democrats should take full advantage of this situation. The task for them is to clearly illustrate the clear choice that Americans have on election day. They need to continuously press Romney on issues that show the stark differences on issues that exist between the presidential tickets and their respective parties.



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

✕

Mitt Romney: You Didn't Build That — You Destroyed It (2012-08-28 12:25)

✕

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/j7zhwVYzJBg?fs=1>

In this video from the DNC, we can see why Mitt Romney is the wrong choice for the middle class. His business experience was not focused on job creation.

While would could say that a traditional venture capitalist helps creates jobs, Romney's company, Bain Capital was

involved in another type of investment strategy. In many cases, they invested in companies with the intent on eventually closing the operation once they had sucked as much money out for investors as possible.

Additionally, Romney was also involved in companies that specialized in outsourcing, so instead of creating jobs he was simply shipping American jobs to cheaper labor markets abroad.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



GOP nominates Mitt Romney (2012-08-28 18:39)

The Republican Party nominated Mitt Romney today as their contender for the U.S. presidency. The delegation from New Jersey sent Romney over the top with the magic number of delegates although the nomination does not become official until he formally accepts it on Thursday.

Today's event occurred as Hurricane Isaac made an official first landfall off southeastern Louisiana. Forecasters expect Isaac to make a second landfall sometime tonight possibly south of New Orleans. The tropical weather is upstaging the convention to some extent and organizers are careful not to seem insensitive while celebrating the Romney nomination.

The location of the event in Florida helps to highlight the importance of that state for the Republican nominee. North Carolina, the location for the Democratic National Convention, has been looking good for President Obama lately. In previous polling, the state looked like it was sliding in Romney's direction.

However, the three most recent polls may suggest that Obama has closed the gap and pulled into a tie with his opponent.

On prime time television tonight, Ann Romney and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will try to "humanize" the nominee who many view as lacking in animation and feeling. On Wednesday, we can expect more of the same thing as Republicans attempt to create a clear image of Mitt Romney for the nationwide viewing audience.

With only 70 days left until the election, the GOP does not have that much time to define their nominee for voters. Television ads help, but nothing is quite so effective as seeing the candidate live during a televised broadcast. Thursday will really be Romney's biggest opportunity to let people know who he is and what he stands for. The other big major windows will be the three debates with President Obama coming in October.

While many people on the Democratic side worry about Romney's fundraising advantage, up to now it has not done much to swing the election in the Republicans favor. For the 2012 election, Romney and the Republican Party have spent about \$368 million compared to about \$262 million for Obama and the Democratic Party. Outside spending for Romney so far is at \$107 million compared to only \$39 million for Obama.

However, the president still leads by a slight margin in national polls and he is doing quite well in battleground state surveys.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/yZCrleRkMhA>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Enthusiasm gap could decide election (2012-08-29 13:47)

While many eyes focus on the money game, it may be getting a little late even for big bucks to make a huge difference. With a little more than two months left, grassroots support may become the deciding factor.

Unless a campaign has an effective message even spending massive amounts of money will only end up producing dwindling returns. President Obama has largely been able to deflect most the GOP attacks directed against him thus far.

Mitt Romney does not want to go too hard on the economy because it allows Obama and Democrats to attack his record at Bain Capital. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy used Bain attacks to defeat Romney in a contest for Kennedy's incumbent U.S. Senate seat. Romney also cannot not use his record as governor because, among other reasons, the specter of Romneycare may turn off the Tea Party base.

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows that Romney is the least popular nominee at convention time since they started detailed polling back in 1984. That lack of enthusiasm for the former governor may end up hurting his field efforts.

The same poll showed that, so far, the Obama campaign has done a better job at contacting voters. They are at about the same level as they were in 2008 at this time, with the Obama camp reaching about 20 percent of voters compared to only 13 percent for Romney's team.

Other evidence also suggests that Obama's campaign team is driving harder than Romney's. Look at the graph from alexa.com covering the last six months and comparing the official websites of both campaigns.



The official Obama site, barackobama.com, has consistently outperformed his opponent's counterpart, mittromney.com in terms of direct Internet reach.

Earlier polls showed that Obama has a higher percentage of strong supporters as compared to Romney and this could manifest when it comes time for volunteers to really get "down in the dirt."

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Paul Ryan goes on attack at RNC (2012-08-29 21:21)

Rep. Paul Ryan's speech tonight at the Republican National Convention was the first vigorous prime time attack on President Barack Obama.

The speeches last night by Ann Romney and Gov. Chris Christie largely avoided mentioning Obama. Some commentators wondered whether the Republicans would go easy on the president during prime time because people tend to

like him so much.

However, Ryan did provide some "red meat" for prime time viewers.

If one of the main tasks of the convention is to increase Romney's likeability, then Gov. Christie's keynote did not accomplish much as it was too self-centered. Democratic keynote speaker, former President Bill Clinton, is a master of gab who should do a much better job compared to Christie.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/tWkPoS3Jj1A?fs=1>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Romney likely to appeal to base tonight (2012-08-30 17:01)

When Mitt Romney formally accepts his party's nomination tonight, he has two main directions that he can take if he wants to make major impact. He can go after President Barack Obama hard to appeal to the party faithful or he can attempt to woo independents watching on prime time television.

By giving the Tea Party and other conservatives plenty of "red meat" tonight, it will show that he is trying to energize them for the ground war. The party base wants to hear tough attacks on Obama and the Democrats.

On the other hand, independent voters tend to dislike negative campaigning from either party. If he goes on the offensive, his already low likeability ratings go plunge even lower as he addresses a nationwide audience. The likeability index is one of the barometers that can indicate which way undecided voters will break as the election nears.

From released excerpts of the speech, it appears that Romney will attack Obama, but not with the same energy that he has used on the campaign trail.

In yesterday's post, I mistakenly said that Bill Clinton would be the keynote speaker at the Democratic Convention when in reality it will be San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, the first *Latino* to ever to deliver a Democratic convention keynote. Bill Clinton will instead enter Obama's name into nomination. The Democrats will feature a strong lineup of women including Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Barbara Mikulski, Kamala Harris, Caroline Kennedy and Eva Longoria.

The Democratic schedule will feature First Lady Michelle Obama on Tuesday, Sept. 4, along with Mayor Castro. On Wednesday, Elizabeth Warren will speak before Bill Clinton who will counter Paul Ryan's speech on the second day of the Republican convention. Vice President Joe Biden will introduce President Obama on Thursday.



President Obama with actress Sissy Spacek in Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 29, 2012. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Live: Romney begins speech (2012-08-30 19:38)

After a bizarre performance by Clint Eastwood, and an effective if inaccurate introduction by Sen. Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney is speaking now at the Republican convention.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

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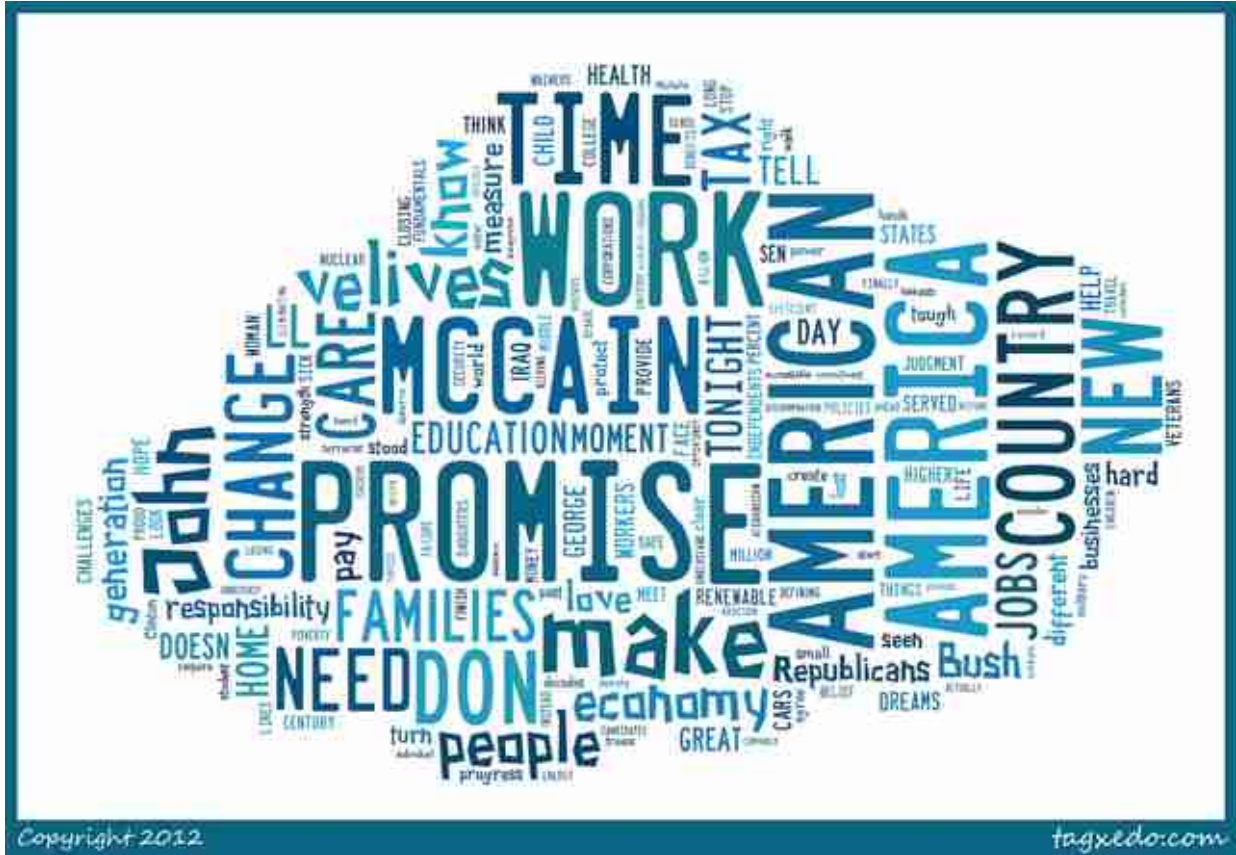
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Romney fails to offer olive branch in speech (2012-08-31 08:34)

Mitt Romney's acceptance speech last night did have some touching family moments. The convention has been about "humanizing" the candidate and a good deal of the speech was autobiographical.

Let's compare his words with the 2008 nomination acceptance speech of Barack Obama. Here is a tag cloud generated from the 2008 transcript:



The word that stands out is "promise" and the speech did have a theme focused around America's promise. Another important keyword is "time." Obama frequently used the phrase "now is the time" in his address.

Here's a similar word cloud for Romney's nomination acceptance speech from last night:



One of the important repeated words in this speech is "business." Romney talks about his own business experience and he also makes appeals directly to small businesses. Another important keyword he uses is "jobs," while Obama instead used the word "work."

Now as to my personal impressions after listening to the speech last night, it appeared divided into two main parts. One that told his personal story and the other which attacked the Obama administration. As a contender against an incumbent, Romney must come out against the president. However, the speech was weak on Romney's plans to change things if he should become president himself.

The only thing that stuck with me without having to go back and read the transcripts is that he would work to repeal Obamacare. He did mention other things, but not in a very inspiring way that made an impression on me, at least. He made what was probably an unnecessary poke at people who are concerned about our environment when he talked about Obama wanting to "heal the planet."

While Obama often referred to "Democrats and Republicans" in his speech, Romney does not mention the opposing party. He does talk about a "united America," but never reaches out to work with Democrats in the future.

His idea of a "united America" may be hard to swallow for those who have followed Republican obstructionism in Congress.

Independents may see Romney's speech and the night in general as rather divisive. While there was talk of unity, there was no real hand of cooperation offered.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

Private sector vs. public sector? (2012-08-31 13:07)

Obama Blog meme:



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

6.8 September

Democrats can gain big on convention (2012-09-01 17:28)

The Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC offers great opportunities for President Barack Obama and the wider Democratic Party.

Party conventions are big enough on their own, but the Republican convention created some real openings for the Democrats. The event offers a platform to rally the troops and to talk to coveted independents and to those supporters who vote only infrequently. However, this year the Democrats can also show clearly how they differ in approach from the Republicans.

While the GOP convention was cheery at times for the in-group, it may not have been particularly inviting for people who are not diehard Republicans. Much of the Tampa Bay event was rather negative if not downright gloomy.

A Tea Party like atmosphere prevailed at times, and that would likely turnoff independent voters.

In 2008, Barack Obama became noted for his "feel good" events. He was the "hope and change" candidate and the big tent candidate. Democrats would do good to recreate that atmosphere this time around.

While the party base may want "red meat," Democrats may be more inclined to be equally motivated by a positive approach. After all, Democrats are traditionally the "bleeding heart" party that wants to change the world for the better.

Therefore, there is not as much need to spend too much time on hard-hitting attacks against Mitt Romney. As the incumbent, the president wants to appear rather aloof from such behavior. While he should chastise Republicans for obstructing progress during his first term, he should also clearly offer to work with the new post-Nov. 6 Congressional Republicans if they are willing to change their ways.

A "hokey changey" convention is a win-win situation when looked at from the perspective of the party base or from that of independent voters.

The Democratic Party has to show how they clearly have a plan for the future that they can implement with reasonable cooperation from Republicans.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/zGNIHWydb9Q>

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X

Anonymous (2012-09-02 23:11:40)

Better start looking for a JOB because you guys are all put of a job in 65 days Sucker!

(2012-09-02 07:15)

We built it! (2012-09-02 16:15)



Ryan:

Paid for college with father's Social Security benefits.

Worked nearly entire career in public sector

obamabarack.blogspot.com

Romney:

His company Bain received millions in federal, state and local government benefits.

Arranged \$10 million Bain bailout by FDIC.

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X

72-hour push (2012-09-04 15:20)

With two months left until the election and the Democrats ready starting their national convention, the ground game is really firing up. The most important part of the volunteer mobilization effort interestingly takes place during the last 72 hours of the election period.

Anyone who has ever organized a meeting or event should understand this principle. The best time to remind people of an event is as near in time to the event as possible preferably the day before. If you remind them even a week out

many people will forget by the time the date arrives.

However, since the task is so large, campaigns generally allot about 72 hours to go through their voter lists. They will call these voters, knock on their doors and leave printed reminders on their front door knobs.

Focuses on infrequent voters

Interestingly, this 72-hour push largely ignores people who vote every election. Instead, it targets infrequent voters that the campaign believes are supporters.

In the months prior to election day, campaign teams prepare for this push by identifying these supporters who vote infrequently. Other targets may include first time voters or first time mail-in voters.

The campaigns also hone their messages in an effort to select issues that will motivate supporters to take the time and vote.

While the 72-hour push is largely about reminding voters that it's election day, in the weeks prior to this time, the campaigns will prep voters by sending out messages that create the right atmosphere. They want people to visualize the importance of the time and to see themselves as making a difference by voting.

Social media and the 72-hour push

The Internet and social media cannot replace traditional get out the vote methods simply because it is against "netiquette" to directly contact people that you do not personally know.

However, social media is a very cost-effective supplement to traditional techniques like phone banking, canvassing and literature drops. Here are some tips that can help improve Internet get out the vote efforts:

- Ask friends, followers, fans and others in our social network to not only vote themselves, but to check to see if their family and friends, both on and offline, are voting.
- Remind activists in your network that its time to participate in the big push.
- Include calls to action that will encourage sharing of your posts like "Click Like and Share" of Facebook and "Retweet" on Twitter.
- Post interesting content like videos, articles and images that share the same theme about fulfilling one's civic responsibility of voting.



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First night about contrasts, insight into presidency (2012-09-04 21:03)

If the first night of the Republican convention was about introducing the human side of Mitt Romney, the Democrat's first night involved showing the clear differences between the two candidates along with providing insight into the difficulties the Obama administration faced.

In terms of raw energy and excitement, there was not comparing the two conventions. The Republican convention did not really get rocking until night three. The Democrats got to little bit of a slow start in passing the new platform, but things really started to pick up from that point.

By the time Gov. Deval Patrick was on the floor, the crowd was in a near frenzy. A very well-produced video on Ted Kennedy helped get everyone in the mood with many delegates openly sobbing.

The keynote address by Mayor Julian Castro was electrifying and it seemed like it would be hard for First Lady Michelle Obama to keep up the momentum. However, she immediately had the crowd spellbound with an intimate talk about the First Couple's first term in office.

We heard throughout the night comparisons of President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. It was clear that the Democrats wanted to show people that they had a clear choice between the two candidates.

If the Democrats can translate even half of tonight's energy into work for their ground campaign, they will be in very good shape.

Tomorrow night, we can probably expect former Pres. Bill Clinton to attack Mitt Romney a little harder. He will also likely endorse Obama's work and plans for the economy. He may break down why Obama's plan will work, while

Romney's will lead to the same problems that got us into the current mess.



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Bridesmaids Hairstyles (2012-09-05 13:29:42)

I love Obama, he is a hero in my heart!

Quan Nguyen from websites Bridesmaids Hairstyles

How the conventions can make a difference (2012-09-05 15:12)

The overnight ratings show that the DNC opening night exceeded the RNC's opening by about one million viewers. Conventions make a big difference in giving each party a "bounce" with voters. The three major broadcasting networks and the three large cable news networks along with many smaller TV networks set aside at least an hour in prime time during the conventions for three or four days.

Just think of one day of commercial-free prime time advertising. The costs can range from about \$50,000 to \$450,000 for a 30-second commercial. If we consider that the conventions get high viewership and calculate an average of \$150,000 for each 30 second segment on one of the broadcasting networks, then a full hour on one station would cost \$18,000,000.

On all three networks, that would add up to \$54,000,000 a night and \$162,000,000 for all three days and that's just for the broadcast stations. The cable news networks have smaller audiences but they provide many more hours of coverage.

For this reason, presidential campaigns usually get a big bump after their conventions. The fact that Mitt Romney's bounce has been so small reinforces the idea that Republican messaging is not effective in turning public opinion against him.

We will see not long after President Obama gives his acceptance speech on Thursday whether the Democratic message can create a more substantial momentum for Democrats.



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X

Bill Clinton works magic as Democrats nominate Barack Obama (2012-09-06 08:34)

Former President Bill Clinton fired up the crowd last night and gave a masterful breakdown of the political and economic history of President Barack Obama's first term.

The second night of the Democratic National Convention focused far more on policy than the first night, which was much more of a pep rally leading up to First Lady Michelle Obama's intimate and insightful speech.

There were more speakers and many short videos that covered the important issues relating to Obama's accomplishments, his plans and the contrasts with Republican intentions. A few speakers, including Missouri Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, did ignite the crowd prior to the main event featuring Massachusetts candidate for U.S. Senate Elizabeth Warren and Clinton.

Warren really woke up the crowd as she hammered the Republicans and Mitt Romney. Her mention of Romney's well-known "Corporations are people too, my friend" remark got a rousing response from the audience in the Time Warner Cable Arena.

People were ready for an adrenaline rush after hours of speeches on policy and Warren delivered.

When Clinton took the stage, there was quite a lot of anticipation in the air. He did not fail his many fans in the audience. Single-handedly, he laid out the issues in a style that everyone could readily absorb.

He explained how deep the economic damage was when Obama took office and how no other president, including himself, could have fixed the situation in just four years. He also promised that if voters reelect President Obama, they will begin feeling the benefits of a full recovery in his second term.

Clinton urged Democrats and the TV audience to reject the Republican's "double down on trickle down" economics.

The Obama campaign team must be pleased with the Clinton performance. He further energized the party base after a spectacular first night and gave the best possible defense of the administration along with a solid endorsement of the president's plans for the future.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/l26ltndGwZo>

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X

Schedule for final day at DNC (2012-09-06 11:39)

Here's the schedule for today's events at the Democratic National Convention based on various reports.

The DNC is keeping some of the guests and timings secret to create suspense before President Barack Obama formally accepts the party's nomination.

Former House Rep. Gabrielle Giffords will start off the official opening tonight with the Pledge of Allegiance. A number of Hollywood celebrities including Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria will make appearances tonight according to a CNN report.

The "mystery guests" appear to all be Hollywood women: Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman and Kerry Washington. This will create an interesting contrast to the RNC's selection of Clint Eastwood. Caroline Kennedy may also speak tonight.

Harold and Kumar star Kal Penn will host the event on the live webcast at <http://barackobama.com/live> along with a bevy of celebrity Democrats.

Thursday at DNC

11:35 a.m. (All times EDT)

First lady Michelle Obama and second lady Dr. Jill Biden will address the Women's Caucus meeting.

11:45 a.m.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michèle Flournoy and White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew will address the International Leaders Forum.

12:10 p.m.

Jill Biden will address the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Caucus.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network will host an event to raise awareness about voter ID laws and their effect on the African-American community. Others scheduled to attend: Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, chairman of the Conference of National Black Churches; Rev. Freddie Haynes, senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church; Roslyn Brock, chairwoman of the NAACP and gospel singer John Kee.

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Screening of "Electoral Dysfunction," a documentary about political humorist Mo Rocca's tour of America's patchwork of electoral systems.

6:00 p.m.

Events kick off at the Time Warner Cable Arena. The DNC is being hush-hush about the schedule of events.

Roll Call reports Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

CNN cited a leaked draft of the schedule that says A-list actors Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman and

Kerry Washington are the surprise guests. The rock band Foo Fighters is also reportedly in the roster. Actor Eva Longoria is also reportedly going to speak, according to AP.

8:00 p.m.

Actor Kal Penn hosts a Web-only convention special featuring famous Hollywood Democrats, including Elizabeth Banks, Aisha Tyler, Olivia Wilde, Fran Drescher, Zack Braff, Marc Anthony and Alexis Bledel.

10:00 p.m.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to pitch his vision of America to the world. Vice President Joe Biden is expected to give a 25-minute speech prior to the president's address.

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(2012-09-06 14:41)



Confirmed DNC schedule for Thursday (2012-09-06 15:07)

Here's the confirmed schedule for tonight's DNC event provided by the Washington Post. Some interesting videos coming up.

2012 Democratic National Convention Podium Schedule

Thursday, September 6, 2012

"Americans Coming Together"

Time shown as local - Charlotte, North Carolina, EDT

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM (LOCAL)

Remarks

The Honorable Kay Hagan

Member of the US Senate, North Carolina

The Honorable Walter Dalton

Lieutenant Governor, North Carolina

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield

Member of the US House of Representatives, North Carolina

The Honorable David Price
Member of the US House of Representatives, North Carolina
The Honorable Mel L. Watt
Member of the US House of Representatives, North Carolina
Remarks
James Rogers
CEO Duke Energy
Live Performance
James Taylor
Singer/Songwriter
Call to Order
The Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention Committee
Mayor of Los Angeles, California
Invocation
Reverend Gabriel Salguero
President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition
Presentation of Colors
American Legion Post 400 of Charlotte, North Carolina
Darrell B. Bonapart, Joe Michalic, Robert E. Welch, Marvin R. Weber
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Marc Anthony
Singer/Songwriter
Progress for People Video: Seniors
American Voices Remarks
Carol Berman
Remarks
The Honorable Donna F. Edwards
Member of the US House of Representatives, Maryland
The Honorable Barney Frank
Member of the US House of Representatives, Massachusetts
In Memoriam Video and Remarks
The Honorable Harvey Gantt
Former Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM (LOCAL)
The Honorable John Lewis
Member of the US House of Representatives, Georgia
Stronger Together Video: Don't Ask Don't Tell
American Voices
Jason Crow
Live Performance
Mary J. Blige
Singer/Songwriter
Remarks
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Chair of the Democratic National Committee
Member of the US House of Representatives, Florida
The Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention Committee

Mayor of Los Angeles, California
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Candidate for US Senate, Wisconsin
Member of the US House of Representatives, Wisconsin
The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Stay Stronger Together Video: Marriage Equality
American Voices Remarks
Zach Wahls
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM (LOCAL)
Jim Messina
Campaign Manager, Obama for America
American Heroes Video: Auto Workers
American Voices
Kenyetta Jones, Ryan Case, Ed Meagher, Martha Figueroa, Lucas Beenken, Rob Hach
Vice Presidential Nomination Intro
The Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention Committee
Mayor of Los Angeles, California
Nominating Remarks
Beau Biden
Attorney General of Delaware and Son of Vice President Joe Biden
Vote by Acclamation
Live Performance
Foo Fighters
Band
Remarks
The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Assistant Democratic Leader and Member of the US House of Representatives,
South Carolina
Scarlett Johansson and Kerry Washington
Actresses
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (LOCAL)
Remarks
Caroline Kennedy
Author and Attorney
The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Democratic Caucus Vice Chair and Member of the US House of Representatives,
California
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Former Governor of Michigan
Eva Longoria
Actress
The Honorable Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
The Honorable Charlie Crist, Jr.
Former Governor of Florida
Remarks
The Honorable John Kerry

Member of the US Senate, Massachusetts

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM (LOCAL)

Video: Veterans

Remarks

Admiral John B. Nathman

United States Navy, Retired

Introductory Remarks

Angie Flores

Remarks

Dr. Jill Biden

Second Lady of the United States

Vice President Joe Biden Video

Remarks

The Honorable Joe Biden

Vice President of the United States

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM (LOCAL)

Video and Remarks

The Honorable Dick Durbin

Member of the US Senate, Illinois

President Barack Obama Video

Remarks

Barack Obama

President of the United States

Celebration

Benediction

His Eminence Timothy Dolan

Roman Catholic Cardinal and Archbishop of New York

Retire Colors

Adjournment

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Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



(2012-09-06 15:40)

CHICAGO – Below are excerpts of President Obama’s remarks as prepared for delivery. The President’s speech will include a set of goals for our country – and a list of those goals is also provided below.

“But when all is said and done – when you pick up that ballot to vote – you will face the clearest choice of any time in a generation. Over the next few years, big decisions will be made in Washington, on jobs and the economy; taxes and deficits; energy and education; war and peace – decisions that will have a huge impact on our lives and our children’s lives for decades to come.

- “On every issue, the choice you face won’t be just between two candidates or two parties.

- “It will be a choice between two different paths for America.
- “A choice between two fundamentally different visions for the future.
- “I won’t pretend the path I’m offering is quick or easy. I never have. You didn’t elect me to tell you what you wanted to hear. You elected me to tell you the truth. And the truth is, it will take more than a few years for us to solve challenges that have built up over decades. It will require common effort, shared responsibility, and the kind of bold, persistent experimentation that Franklin Roosevelt pursued during the only crisis worse than this one. And by the way – those of us who carry on his party’s legacy should remember that not every problem can be remedied with another government program or dictate from Washington.

“But know this, America: Our problems can be solved. Our challenges can be met. The path we offer may be harder, but it leads to a better place. And I’m asking you to choose that future. I’m asking you to rally around a set of goals for your country – goals in manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit; a real, achievable plan that will lead to new jobs, more opportunity, and rebuild this economy on a stronger foundation. That’s what we can do in the next four years, and that’s why I’m running for a second term as President of the United States.”

President Obama’s Goals for America

Tonight President Obama will ask the country to rally around a set of goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit – a real, achievable plan that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and ensure an economy built to last.

Manufacturing

- •
Create one million new manufacturing jobs by the end of 2016
- •
Double exports by the end of 2014

Energy

- •
Cut net oil imports in half by 2020
- •
Support 600,000 natural gas jobs by the end of the decade

Education

- •
Cut the growth of college tuition in half over the next 10 years
- •
Recruit 100,000 math and science teachers over the next 10 years
- •
Train two million workers for real jobs at community colleges

National Security

- •
Invest in the economy with the money we’re no longer spending on war

Deficit

- .

Reduce the deficit by more than \$4 trillion over the next decade

###

Obama speech reignites hope (2012-09-07 08:43)

President Barack Obama revisited "hope" in his acceptance speech for the Democratic presidential nomination. The reconnection with his 2008 theme was necessary, in this writer's opinion, for the president to show that his vision remains the same after four years in office.

In the latter part of the speech, he explained in detail, giving many examples, that his hope was in the American people. The people were responsible for change and he showed how the people had created change during his first term. He also promised that he would continue to work with the people for change if granted a second term.

Obama was passionate but controlled throughout much of his presentation giving a sober account of his administration and of his plans for the future if reelected. One could clearly see that he wanted to give more specifics than Romney did in his acceptance speech.

He highlighted the difference between the Democratic and the Republican approaches. The idea that voters had a clear choice in this election has been a constant theme over the three days of the Democratic convention.

The main message is that Democrats believe that everyone, including the government, must work together, while the Republicans believe that individuals, or at least middle class and poor individuals, should not expect anything from government.

Unlike in his 2008 speech, the president did not talk about working together with Republicans except that he mentioned how they had cooperated to cut spending last summer. Instead, he focused on working together with the American people.

Unlike Mitt Romney, who failed to mention American troops serving in war zones, Obama acknowledged his role as commander-in-chief:

Tonight, we pay tribute to the Americans who still serve in harm's way. We are forever in debt to a generation whose sacrifice has made this country safer and more respected. We will never forget you. And so long as I'm Commander-in-Chief, we will sustain the strongest military the world has ever known. When you take off the uniform, we will serve you as well as you've served us - because no one who fights for this country should have to fight for a job, or a roof over their head, or the care that they need when they come home.

In ending the speech, Obama gave out a call to his supporters and to voters in general. He noted that in his vision of America, we travel together and not with each person out on their own. This election was about a choice that would determine the direction of the country for decades. In his words, Americans faced the clearest choice they have had in a generation.

They could choose between two futures and his vision quoting from Scripture was a "future filled with hope."

Pennsylvania and Michigan depend a lot on what happens in the urban areas.

The Philadelphia and Detroit metro regions in PA and MI respectively can dramatically alter outcomes in favor of Obama if there is good turnout in these areas. Most experts believe that the Obama team will be able to rally supporters in these cities although maybe not to the extent they did in 2008. Additionally, Romney is vulnerable to an attack on his auto industry position in Michigan.

Wisconsin though is a different cookie. Given that this recent ad decision came on the heels of the Republican National Convention, it makes one think that there were some benchmarks that they did not meet. Possibly, these were in relation to the expected convention "bounce."

Meta-analysis of past polling data, internal polling and reports from the field may have also had an influence on their decision to go on the defensive. Republicans and their super-PACs will concentrate their resources instead in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia.

That really limits their potential paths to victory in the presidential race. What is obvious here is that if the other swing states go to Obama, the Republicans will need to win Florida to prevent an Obama victory. Even winning Ohio and the other six states will not get them to the required 270 electoral votes if they lose Florida.

What, if anything, should the Obama campaign do in response to the latest GOP moves?

They could decide to take the Republicans head on in Florida since that's a must win state for them. However, that could end up sucking up a lot of money. Florida is the most expensive swing state and it is also one of the toughest for Obama according to the polls.

Another strategy would be to concentrate in states that offer more of an opening for Obama. For example, if Obama could win Nevada, New Hampshire, Colorado and Virginia, that would give him 279 electoral votes so long as there are no surprises in other states. Obama is polling best in those four states out of the eight that the Republicans are currently fighting in.

While they should maintain their current efforts in the other four states, they could pull some, but not all, of their resources from states like Pennsylvania and Michigan and redirect them into those battlefields.

With two months remaining, we should continue to see both campaigns make significant strategic moves to adjust to a constantly changing electoral environment.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/p7RXxYRzEYI>

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Obama slips past Romney in August fundraising (2012-09-10 19:15)

President Barack Obama raised more than Mitt Romney for the first time in three months by pulling in \$114 million in August compared to \$111 million for his opponent.

What makes Obama's fundraising even more significant is that he raised 98 percent of his money from donors who gave \$250 or less, while 31 percent of Romney donors fell into that category. That appears to indicate that the president has more supporters available for the ground campaign.

Some of the energy of the Obama campaign was evident at the convention where supporters easily outpaced the Republicans on social media. In fact, President Obama's speech set a new Twitter record.

The speech scored 7.28 on Facebook's "Talk Meter" analysis, the highest from either convention. In comparison, Romney's speech only scored 5.04.

Additionally, there is no reason to think that Obama has an overwhelming presence of geeks and nerds among his supporters, so this phenomenon will also likely translate into more action in the field for the president.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/mZHt1FPRuYM>

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X

DNC measured as website activity (2012-09-11 14:13)

The Alexa rankings for reach and pageviews for the two official presidential campaigns indicate how much excitement the Democratic National Convention generated for President Barack Obama. The two charts below show activity for both presidential campaigns sites over the last three months



Reach indicates the percentage of total worldwide Internet users while pageviews represents percentage of total worldwide webpage views.

During the DNC, there was a significant jump in each metric for barackobama.com. In comparison, the RNC, which took place at the end of August, hardly seems to have helped Mitt Romney's official website at all. From the online evidence, at least, if there really is an "enthusiasm gap," it appears to favor the Obama campaign.

Supporters can donate money and volunteer to help on these campaign websites. They can also read blogs and other news and articles on these sites. Barackobama.com has a feature known as the Dashboard that allows registered users to campaign online using a digital interface.

Among the ways that they can help online include calling registered voters, contacting people in their area to volunteer, and contributing content including stories and testimonials. The site does not appear yet to have a tool for writing letters to the editor and op-eds like that featured on the 2008 campaign site.

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X

The Big Mo (2012-09-13 17:58)

A string of election polls show that President Barack Obama is up both nationally and in the battleground states. His advantage in the national polls is steeper than that in the swing states.

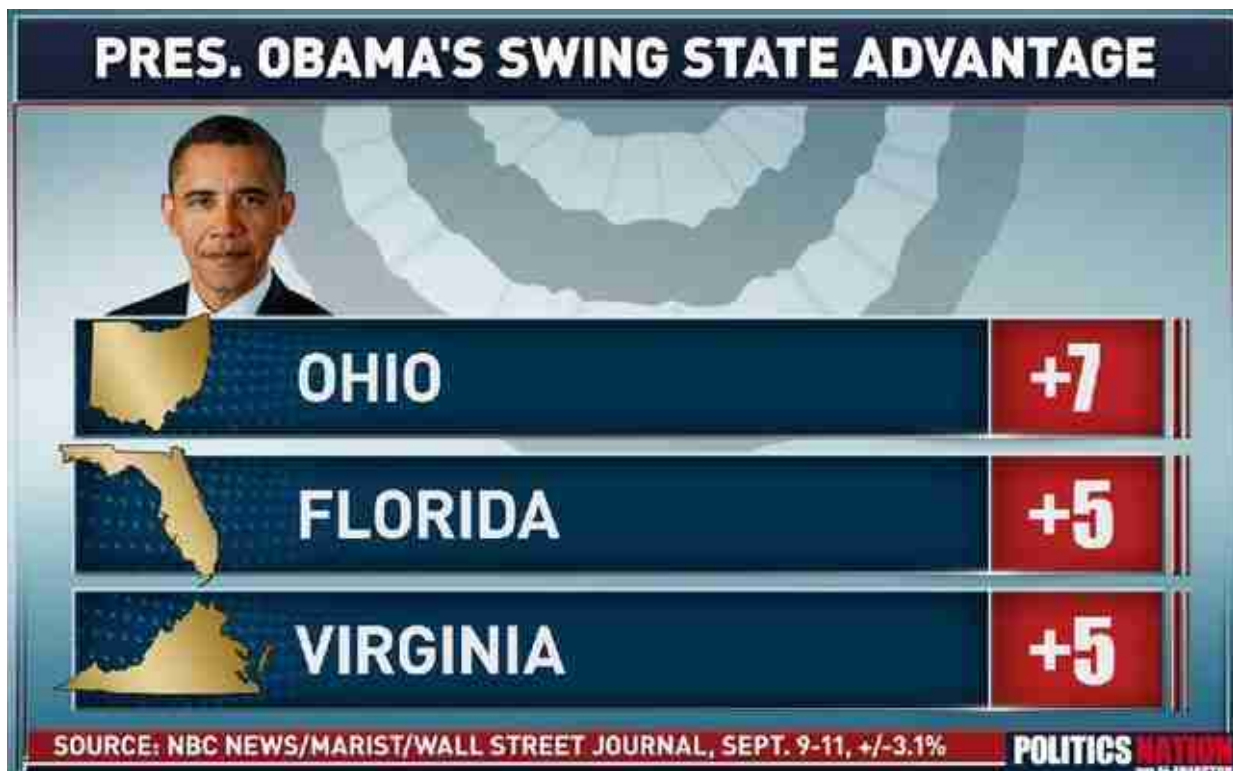
Maybe most importantly, the favorability gap between the two candidates is widening. Mitt Romney just cannot not consistently get voters to like him more. The Republican convention helped him a little, but he is definitely still having difficulty with his image.

One is tempted to think that the Obama campaign is starting to pick substantial momentum, which is known in politics and elsewhere as the "Big Mo." And it's not just the polls that indicate that the campaign is picking up steam. After two months of the Romney campaign winning fundraising by wide margins, the Obama team turned the tables in August.

Then, there was the recent big foreign policy bungle made during Romney's press conference in reaction to the riots in Libya and Egypt. From all directions, it seems that things are moving in Obama's direction.

The Big Mo is like having the wind at your back while sailing, while for the other side, it is more like having to sail against a stiff wind. While it does not guarantee a victory, you definitely want the Big Mo on your side.

Maybe it is still a little early to declare that Obama has the Big Mo. It could be that he's just enjoying a healthy but temporary convention bounce. The next few weeks will give us a better idea as to whether momentum is favoring the president's campaign.



Source: [#49026074](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45755884/vp/49026074)

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Sumit Tamb (2012-09-13 23:01:16)

Hey There. I found your blog using msn. This is a very well written article. I will be sure to bookmark it and come back to read again ,you can refer
OBAMA Osama Secrets

Why Obamacare is a losing issue for Romney (2012-09-15 13:44)

Mitt Romney doubled down on his plan to "repeal" Obamacare recently, but this could help sink his campaign. As each day goes by, more people benefit from features of Obamacare and many are aware of why they are receiving these benefits. At the same time, individuals learn each day that they will come to depend on Obamacare for their retirement especially if they plan on retiring or are forced to retire before they are eligible for Medicare. Each of these individuals may find Mitt Romney's plan to axe Obamacare as harmful to their future and it could have an influence on their vote. The impact could be especially strong among undecided voters. On the other hand, the number of people who would vote against President Obama because of Obamacare has no stimulus to grow. As people learn about Obamacare, they find that most of the information that they thought was true is actually inaccurate. A report just released today by Kaiser, for example, indicates that if Romney were to repeal Obamacare, Medicare would go bankrupt by 2016. Therefore, the more Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan attack Obamacare, the more they risk losing voters who are becoming dependent on that coverage or who are learning that they already benefit from its provisions. Obama's campaign team, for its part, can counter attacks on Obamacare by helping people to understand how the Affordable Care Act is helping them or will help them in the future. Obamacare forms part of a different vision of the future shared by the president and Democrats that focuses on people helping people with a role for government. In this vision, the government, funded by the people, is not the enemy. The vision of Mitt Romney and the Republicans, in its most extreme view, almost demonizes government. They do seem to see a role for government in assisting big business, for example, subsidies for big oil and gas. Yet, they have a problem with safety nets for ordinary people. Their vision is one in which government and the elite move on a different track than that of the middle class and the poor.



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/qnxYlhFfH-4>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-09-23 09:46:52)

Lies lies and more lies by the only tried and true candidate in this race who has failed the American people miserably. Going any more "forward" on obama's path will take us over the cliff. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool us twice, we are the stupidest people on the planet...EVER!!!



100% > 1%

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Voting begins in early states (2012-09-17 20:35)

Mail voting via absentee ballots is already underway in North Carolina with Virginia set to offer these ballots on Friday.

Most states have early in-person voting periods or no-excuse absentee ballot voting periods. Indeed, 24 states and the District of Columbia have both early voting and no-excuse absentee ballot voting periods.

Only 15 states provide no early voting period and only allow absentee voting when the voter has an excuse, for example, when they are living abroad. These states are:

1. Alabama
2. Connecticut

3. Delaware
4. Kentucky
5. Massachusetts
6. Michigan
7. Minnesota
8. Mississippi
9. Missouri
10. New Hampshire
11. New York
12. Pennsylvania
13. Rhode Island
14. South Carolina
15. Virginia

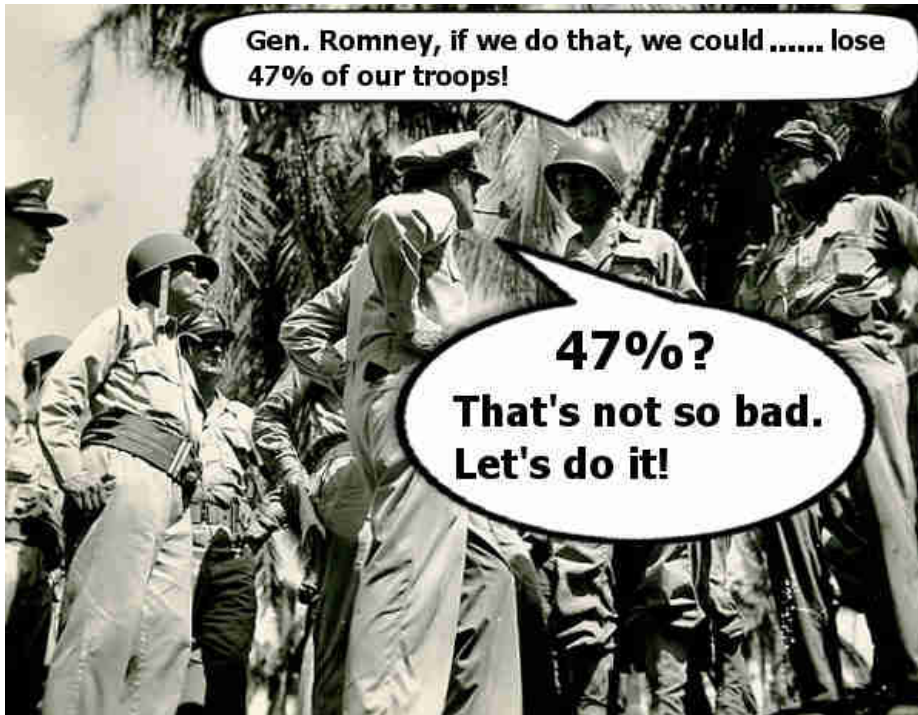
For this week, while North Carolina allows no-excuse absentee voting, Virginia requires that voters have a valid excuse.

The presidential campaign teams will encourage their supporters to vote as early as possible. Once the ballot is cast it is like "money in the bank." Other votes are still up for grabs and they are vulnerable to unfavorable developments including the well-known phenomenon of the "October surprise."

At the same time, the campaigns will wage last-ditch persuasion efforts to win early votes from independents. For information on early voting and absentee voting in your state, visit gottavote.com/.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.





The release of Mitt Romney's fundraising speech video may turn out to be one of the defining moments of the 2012 campaign along with the highly successful Democratic National Convention.

While it still may be too early to declare that Romney is toast, even many Republican expert commentators are saying that the former Massachusetts governor's campaign is in big trouble.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



hershcampaign2012 (2012-09-25 17:47:01)

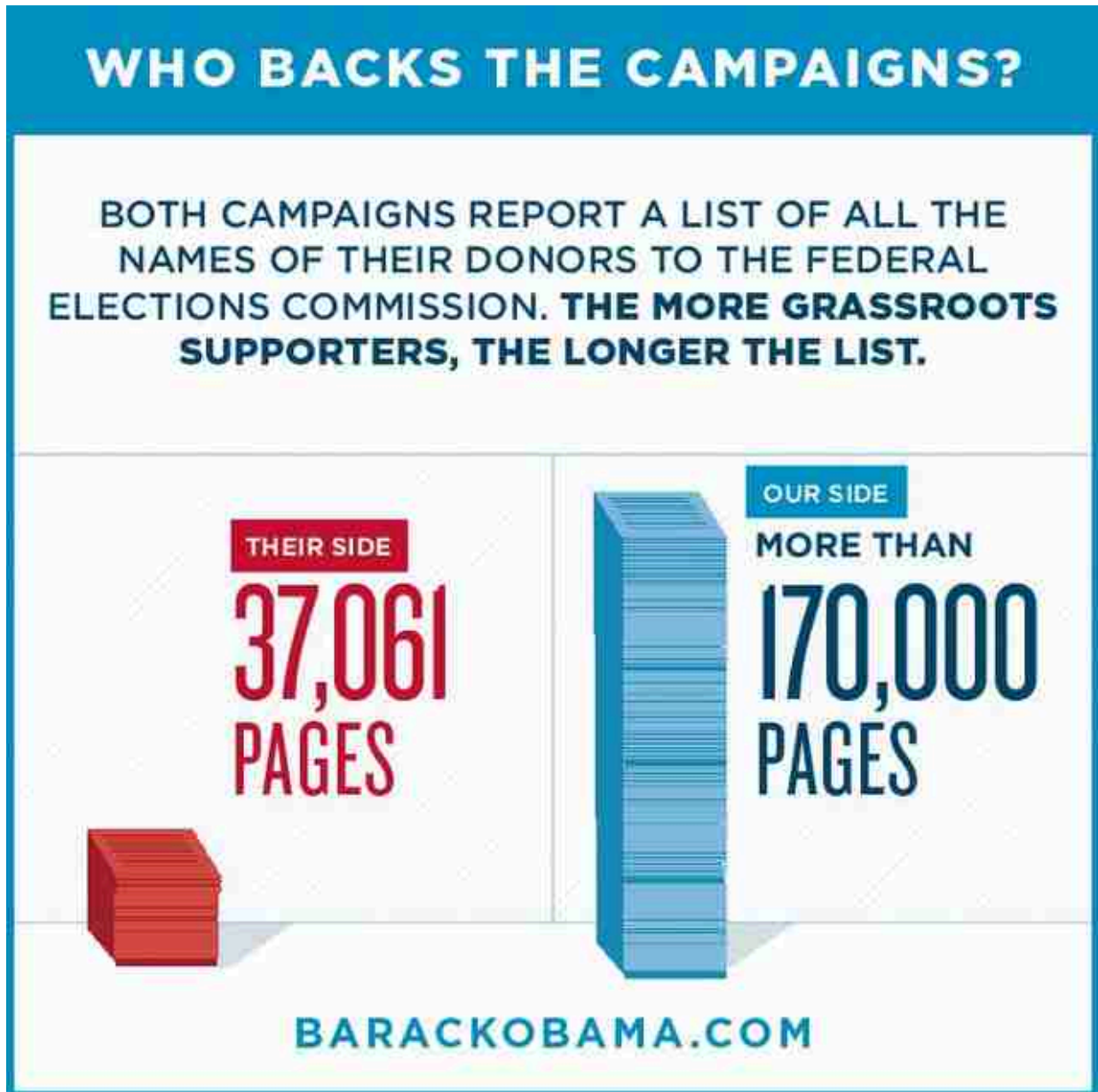
Part of the 47 % Romney doesn't care about are Veterans. Republicans always SAY they support our troops but they don't back it up. More people should see this video: <http://youtu.be/yrFixw7gSgA>

Shown at the DNC but never aired on TV, it makes a great point: it's so important that we remember and care for our Veterans, not just on Veterans Day. Among the promises kept by President Obama during his first term was bringing our troops home from Iraq, with honor. We took out Bin Laden, and anyone who minimizes that for political gain insults our troops. To see how this administration has honored and supported our troops, watch this video - Tom Hanks narrates a moving tribute to Veterans, on behalf of the Obama team; the second half is especially moving and a good reminder for us all that our pact with soldiers doesn't end with their tour of duty.

Obama ground attack on the roll (2012-09-22 18:18)

Increasing evidence shows that the Obama campaign is pulling ahead of the Romney camp in the important ground game.

The Obama team has nearly three times more offices in crucial battleground states and they claim to have contacted many more voters than their opponents. In terms of grassroots contributors, Obama also has a clear lead and we can expect that a good percentage of these donors are volunteering or will volunteer for Obama in the future.



Voter contact, at least as shown by the online phone banking activity, has been picking up since the Democratic convention. While the data is still coming in, it looks like the growth in calling is continuing unabated.

In the most recent 15 nationwide polls, the president has hit or exceeded the 50 percent mark in seven or nearly half of them. At this late point in the contest, candidates want to be moving in a positive direction and nearly all of that movement is coming from the Obama side.

According to the most recent Gallup poll, Democrats are more enthusiastic than Republicans nationwide and in swing states. Nationally, Democrats lead in enthusiasm by 68 % to 62 % while in the swing states, they have a 73 % vs. 64 %

lead in the swing states. The larger gap in battleground states indicates that the Democratic team really is focusing in on the presidential race.

The DNC would do well to stoke up more passion in non-battleground states as this is important to create a holistic effect. After all, in the modern election battlefield, it is easy to volunteer to help in any state and volunteers can do this from their own home computer using the campaign's online phone tool.

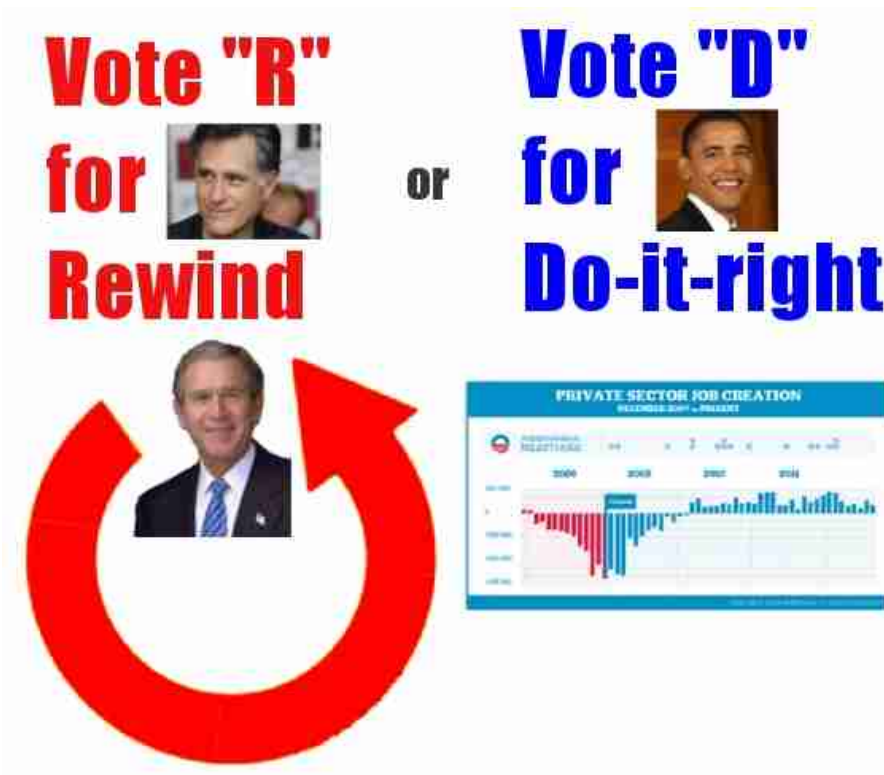
Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Rachel Seguin (2012-09-26 16:56:23)

This is comment is to the President Obama's campaign. My cousin lives in Ohio and she said that lots of student, adult male, paid by the Republican..say that they will vote for President Obama and all the time they are voting for Romney it is just to make the Poll look as if President Obama is ahead..so that he wont campaign in those swing state..Please be careful..there is a lot of bad people among those Republican..thanks

Do it right or rewind? (2012-09-24 19:10)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-09-25 20:57:48)

Exotic Barack Obama limited edition artwork. Free to have a look. <http://www.squidoo.com/patriotic-obama-celtic-blackwork-embroidery>

Iowa Be The First to Vote for President Obama: Early Voting Starts this ... (2012-09-26 21:23)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/H3jDk80NDwU?fs=1>

Early voting in Iowa starts on September 27. Obama campaign launching massive grassroots effort to get supporters to vote early and free up resources for the GOTV drive.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-09-27 14:59:48)

hey obama since u want the illegals to b in this coyntry,, the way i c it u r responsible for anything they do while in this country, thereforei want a new VW Jetta TDI since it was just hit by a illegal doing 50 and running a red light so it would b nice if u can get my new car to me asap i still have a job and need that car to get there i have no desire to b unemployed and on the gov dole urs truely USMC Cpl Uliasz

Anonymous (2012-09-28 12:36:17)

Mr. Obama I voted for you 4 years ago and I'll vote for you again. Anyone with a brain in their head understands that it's impossible to make the kind of changes America needs in just 4 years! The problem is we change presidents before the promises they make are put into effect.

If Mr. Romney wins I'm in big trouble. I've worked all my life, 40 years, and for the first time find myself living on unemployment after getting laid off in Feb of 2012. Do you know how hard it is to get a job at 57 years old? I have plenty of experience, but my age, health issues, and lack of education just aren't what employers are looking for.

I'm in the 47 % Mr. Romney was heard saying he wouldn't be focusing on. Do I think the government owes me something? No. Do I need help and understanding? YES!

For the first time in 40 years I don't have health insurance. I can afford it if I give up food. (But I like food:)

I'm really scared Mr. Obama. If Mitt Romney wins, with his ignorant attitude, I might as well give up.

Debbie Wallace

Florida

me5_dawallace@yahoo.com

Romney can still come back (2012-09-29 18:50)

President Barack Obama is doing very well in the polls right now without a doubt. He is looking good in both national and state polls. His favorability rating is averaging 51 percent and his job approval is just under 50 percent.

In comparison, Mitt Romney has a favorable rating of only 44.6 while his unfavorable rating is at 46.8. Now, the question arises as to whether Obama supporters should talk up the president's new momentum or stay cautious to keep volunteers from getting complacent. The best option may be to use both approaches simultaneously. By trumping up Obama's "Big Mo" they can get a lot of the people on the sidelines to join in the effort. Many people, for example, wait to see who is winning before jumping on the "bandwagon." Other people may be Obama voters, but they do not want to take any chances of associating themselves with anything that involves losing. In either case, this provides stimulus for them to get involved. You may notice how George Soros, the billionaire, was complaining about Obama and refused to contribute to any of the pro-Obama super-PACs until just recently. Maybe he is seeing the writing on the wall and wants to get on the president's good side! Even dedicated Obama supporters can get a lift by knowing that their efforts are bearing fruit. On the other hand, you do not want the volunteers and donors getting overly confident thinking that this thing is in the bag. Romney still has a lot of financial support and it is difficult to say that they do not have an "October surprise" ready to unleash. The right approach is to acknowledge that the campaign is working and has been successful, but at the same time reinforcing the idea that the Obama team still has to play until the last buzzer. Romney is still within reach and his opponents need to keep up the pressure for the win.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/1pDsWLXTbDs>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

6.9 October

How Big Bird stole last night's debate (2012-10-04 11:38)

While mainstream media commentators and snap polls seem to indicate that Mitt Romney "won" last night's debate, the most important impact is what people will remember a few days from now.

As an avid Obama observer from early 2007, I remember next to nothing from the 2008 primary and general election debates. The only thing that last night's debate brought back was the president's "professorial" style, which apparently does not appeal to many debate watchers.

However, his debating style has never really had much impact on how voters perceive him. Indeed, debates only rarely change the course of an election. At the most, both camps will hope that something will stick in the minds of voters after seeing the two candidates rumble.

In this case, it appears that Mitt Romney's comments on cutting funding for PBS and firing Big Bird may be the biggest takeaway from the debate. The topics trended all night and into Thursday morning on Twitter. A popular series of related memes is circulating on Facebook.

Not clear if this will have any impact on the polls. Gallup and Rasmussen conduct tracking polls, but it would be surprising if this will register in any meaningful way.

X

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Obama attracts bigger crowds (2012-10-05 18:24)



President Barack Obama is consistently drawing larger crowds at his rallies and this may be a sign that his ground campaign is busier too.

The photo above shows a crowd estimated at about 30,000 in Wisconsin on Thursday. In comparison, a post-debate rally by Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in Virginia drew about 10,000. To be fair, Romney's team has been improving their crowd-raising numbers lately.

Obama also clearly continues to dominate overwhelmingly online. Not only is his official campaign site busier, but he's more successful on social media. For example, the president has 20,560,875 followers on Twitter compared to 1,291,042 for Romney.

Additionally, Romney only follows 269 people while the Obama team has made more efforts to reciprocate with the president following 672,122 people on Twitter.

On Facebook, Obama's official page has 29,335,498 likes. In comparison, Romney's official page has 8,325,767 likes. Then there was the Wall Street Journal report that Obama has raised more than \$150 million in September. These are not official numbers, but the campaign team did report that they had reached a total of 10 million donors by the end of the month. Now, at the end of August, they had only 3 million donors total, so that is a major jump. Again, many of these donors will also volunteer for the campaign.

With only about a month left until the election, grassroots efforts will play probably the major role in turning out more voters.

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Breanna (2012-10-09 10:58:07)

For all you Obama supporters (and even those on the fence) we encourage you to check out the film "The Obama Effect." You can watch it on demand here: <http://bit.ly/ShhGFS> and or you can pre-order it on DVD here: <http://amzn.to/W98wtl>. It will be released on DVD on election day!

Romney and 47% (2012-10-09 20:48)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2012-10-14 00:16:58)

Watch this...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9T4NfwOsMU> &sns=em

GOP and Jobs (2012-10-14 08:33)



Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

X

Anonymous (2012-10-14 18:52:59)

Obama need to look in the camera and talk to the audience and not to the announcer.

Anonymous (2012-10-14 18:57:11)

OBAMA NEEDS TO LOOK INTO THE CAMERA AND NOT TALK TO THE ANNOUNCER.

Lisandro Rivera (2012-10-17 07:46:04)

I agree!! He did a much better job w/ this debate! Good job Mr. President but don't take your foot off the gas pedal yet!
www.a124studio.com

Obama must become stage actor in debates (2012-10-15 13:25)

Being president often involves performing various official ceremonies and rituals. In times of national emergencies, the president must appear calm when talking before public even if he or she might not feel that way inside.

For the presidential debates, the candidates must go even one step further in taking on something similar to an actor's role in some cases. The president's supporters are not looking for intellectual arguments during the debate, if we are to judge from debate reactions dating back to the 2008 campaign.

What they are more interested in is seeing the president voice their own concerns, but in a way that also expresses their own feelings. They want the president to be their voice – a voice that become angry and indignant at times.

President Obama must think about his more fervent supporters and think of the way they would express their own frustrations over certain types of issues. That is the type of "red meat" that many debate watchers are looking for.

Of course, he has to do it in a way befitting to his office. Also, he need to avoid appearing like the "angry black man" stereotype.

The president's training as an intellectual and years of experience as a college lecturer are not the best type of preparation for this type of thing. For that reason, he needs to act. His own natural response would be to welcome dissenting opinions since that is the general environment that exists on college campuses.

However, during the debate, he needs to react strongly if Mitt Romney is dishing out the "malarkey."

Another reason this is important is that Republicans have not been cooperative with the president in office. Here in California, we could see how former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger built up a good working relationship with President Obama. Unlike many other GOP governors, he was more than ready to accept stimulus funds, for example. The relationship was so positive that Arnold is still undecided on which candidate to support, although he did endorse Sen. John McCain in the last presidential election.

However, this was a rare exception to the rule during Obama's first term. The Republicans in Congress sought to obstruct the president at almost every opportunity after a short "honeymoon" period right after the 2008 race.

Obama supporters do not want their candidate to seem like he can be bullied around by Republicans during a second term. He needs to be ready to call out Romney in a way that shows he's not playing around. Obama's base will be looking for their candidate to show strength and engagement while forcefully expressing their concerns even if that is not his natural style.

However, he doesn't have to be a Shakespearean actor to pull this off. He just needs to channel the emotions that he encounters regularly on the campaign trail.

X

IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/W_ilyi0CvL8

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X

warrior magz (2012-10-16 19:27:21)

support for obama

obama lost in debate

Mitt Romney, Bain and China (2012-10-17 13:39)

In last night's debate, the two nominees discussed China repeatedly in relation to foreign policy and economy-related matters.

Although President Barack Obama first brought up China in relation to clean energy development, it was former Governor Mitt Romney who first took a hard line mentioning that he would 'crack down' on the Chinese.

Romney and running mate Paul Ryan frequently refer to China in relation to the deficit and they often portray the country as an economic threat to America.

The pair have even accused the president of shipping jobs to China.

However, Romney's tough China stance appears at odds with his history at Bain & Company and its spinoff firm Bain Capital. Both companies became involved in China investments and outsourcing.

A recent AP article outlined Romney's connections with Bain & Company when it opened an office in Shanghai in 1993

At least seven Securities and Exchange Commission filings from May to December 1993 by Marriott International, Inc., where Romney served as a director, listed him as "chief executive officer of Bain & Company, Inc." A 1998 Sports Authority SEC filing said Romney was Bain's CEO and chairman to 1993 and a director to 1998. A March 1993 federal credit document obtained by Rolling Stone magazine listed him as Bain's "principal." A Boston Herald news story written in October 1993 by current Romney senior adviser Eric Fehrnstrom described him as Bain's chairman and former CEO.

At Bain Capital, Romney took a paid leave of absence in February 1999 to run the Salt Lake City Olympics, but he continued on officially as sole shareholder, managing director, CEO, and president. He continued to sign documents

for the company and to conduct other work for both Bain Capital and some of the companies that it controlled. However, we should note while the Romney campaign has made much effort to separate Bain & Company from Bain Capital, evidence shows that the two companies worked together in building up foreign investment in China.

Two companies worked in China by mid-90s

A group of Bain & Company founders started Bain Capital in 1984. Bain & Company itself was a major original investor in the new firm and, for a period, it received a share of Bain Capital's profits. Initially, Bain & Company executives had the right to veto the spinoff firm's investments if there was a conflict of interest.

When Bain & Company experienced difficulties in the early 1990s, they even hired Romney back from Bain Capital to help get their house back in order.

Most importantly, the evidence points to Bain & Company helping foreign companies including Bain Capital find investments in China.

When Bain & Company first opened an office in Shanghai, they became active in helping the country adapt to the free market system. In particular, they were involved with a high-level seminar focused on teaching Western capitalist principles and methods to Chinese firms.

During the seminar, Bain and Company will outline Western ways in enterprise valuation, mergers, and acquisitions, and in enterprise performance improvement. The two sides will hold discussions on how Chinese enterprise can most effectively use foreign investments.

– Daily Report, U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Issues 229-239, 1993

According to *The Asian Venture Capital Journal*, Bain and Company was seeking foreign investments for Chinese firms by at least 1995 and one of the investors was Bain Capital.

Bain's venture capital fund, Bain Capital, has so far directed its \$50 million in investments entirely within the U.S. Yan admits that the firm's outlook on China is cautious. "I have seen a lot of deals that have a cash flow payback of less than two years, but there are not a lot of them and those deals tend to be rather small."

– The Asian Venture Capital Journal, Vol. 8, 1995, p. 26

Bain and Company VP Yan added that "half of the time we tell our clients not to invest in China." Although, primarily a management consulting firm, the evidence shows that Bain & Company was also seeking foreign investments for Chinese firms.

Indeed, by 1996, according to the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Bain and Company had attracted a substantial amount of foreign investment into the country. How much of this came from Bain Capital is still unclear.

"In the long run, our business focus on both foreign and multinational companies and Chinese firms will be two sides of a coin," said Rick Yan, vice-president of Bain Co Inc., which has been helping foreign businesses invest a combined 500 million U.S. Dollars in China since 1993."

– – Daily Report, U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Issues 76-84, 1996

By 1998, groups like Bain & Company, the Boston Consulting Group and McKinsey and Company were actively working in China on various types of consulting including bringing in foreign investors.

"Our strategy is to work with Bain Capital and other direct investment funds to become equity partners of SOEs [state-owned enterprises] and work with them to turn around their performance through strategy development, management enhancement, and performance-based incentive systems."

- Harvard China Review, vol. 1, 1998

Romney's hypocrisy

No matter how one looks at it, Mitt Romney was active with Bain & Company as director at least until 1998, and in various capacities with Bain Capital until 2002.

For about a decade, he certainly knew about both companies' dealings in China. So, it is a little strange that he should take such a hard line against a country that he and his partners helped to succeed in the Western free market system.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Adam Grey (2012-10-18 20:13:06)
<http://gekkoromney.blogspot.com>

Halloween GOTV (2012-10-21 19:31)



Click on image for full-size graphic.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Pres. Obama prepares for final foreign policy debate (2012-10-22 11:35)

The debate tonight should highlight one of GOP nominee Mitt Romney's weak points: foreign policy.

At the very least, President Barack Obama has the advantage in this area since he is a known quantity. People have been able to see him act in the international arena now for almost four years. With Romney, they really cannot be sure what to expect.

The GOP candidate's unknown factor is not only related to his inexperience in foreign policy, but also to the fact that

Romney simply is a very hard person to figure out in terms of policy, period. Not only does he keep specific hidden, as with his tax deduction plan, but he often "flip-flops" from one position to another. Even his fellow Republicans view him a flip-flopper.

Additionally, VP candidate Paul Ryan has much less foreign policy experience as compared to VP Joe Biden who is a former Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Romney's well-publicized foreign policy trip during the London Olympics was a huge disaster. Everyone from the London mayor to the UK prime minister voiced concerns over Romney's statements while he was visiting the country. An excellent analysis on CNN last night showed that on important international security issues, Romney is significantly more hawkish than Obama. For example, while the president says his administration will not tolerate an Iranian nuclear weapons program, Romney's stance is that he will not allow for even the capability of starting up such a program.

What that means, basically, is that Romney could go to war even if Iran is simply generating nuclear energy, since the radioactive waste from such activity is convertible into weapons grade fissile or "dirty bomb" material.

President Obama can direct the flow of the debate to focus in on Romney's lack of experience and his dangerous hawkish stances that could end up entangling a war-weary nation in an unnecessary armed conflict.

Romney will try to draw attention, instead, on the recent attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi and on the general stability issues plaguing the Middle East especially with regard to Syria. However, the Benghazi line of attack is weak since it involves an issue that is still very much investigation. Romney is basically reaching here making assumptions on the actions of various actors in the Obama administration.

On the wider perspective of Middle East stability, the president can portray Romney as someone who is more likely to inflame rather settle the situation. Or in the worst case, the GOP challenger could end up involving the country, eventually, in direct military action.

In general, Romney tends to make many blunders when talking about foreign policy, so the president can exploit this by asking for specifics and testing his opponent's knowledge of facts and the overall situation depending on the particular issue under discussion.

X

IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/FOatTWJAlpl>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Motivating unlikely voters to vote (2012-10-24 18:30)

Since most of the recent polls are sampling likely voters, the impact of turning out unlikely voters looms large. The fact that the Obama campaign was able to convince many unlikely voters to participate in the 2008 election makes turnout even more important.

Generally, in recent elections, the presidential candidate that turns out the most members from their own party wins, as the following table demonstrates.

Year			
Republicans	Democrats	Advantage	Total voters
Percent of voting age population			
1992			
39 %	40 %	D +1	104,405,155

55.23 %

1996

35 % 39 % D +4 96,456,345

49.08 %

2000

35 % 39 % D +4 105,586,274

51.30 %

2004 37 % 37 % Even 122,295,345 55.27 %

2008 32 % 39 % D +7 132,645,504 57.48 %

The table shows that the exception to this rule in recent presidential elections was in 2000 when George W. Bush scored a controversial victory over Al Gore. In that election, hanging chads in Florida enabled Bush to barely win the contest.

Bush also won in 2004, a year in which Republicans came out in equal numbers to Democrats. President Barack Obama won by a landslide in 2008, a year that witnessed the highest voter turnout since 1968.

Obama leads among all registered voters

In almost all polls that take into account all registered voters, Obama leads and often by a significant margin. The trend is particularly strong in the battleground states. The polls that are making headlines now are mostly surveying likely voters. Some only show opinions for those who say they are certain to vote.

What we know from 2008 is that the Obama team is capable of registering new voters and of turning out irregular older voters. They do this using a massive ground army combined with excellent planning and organization.

If we look at the available metrics, Obama is doing as good or better as in 2008, and he is beating out the current GOP opposition in 2012:

- **Campaign field offices** – Obama has more than twice as many field offices and the disparity is even wider in some important swing states. For example, the Obama team has more than three times as many field offices in Ohio than does the Romney camp.
- **Voter registration** – Obama has beat out their highly successful 2008 registration drive even as some states are still accepting new registration forms. Compared to the Republicans in 2012, Democrats lead in voter registration so far in the battleground states of Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Nevada and Pennsylvania. Republicans lead only in Colorado and New Hampshire. Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin do not register according to party.
- **Non-midterm voters** – In nine battleground states, Democrats exceed Republicans in early votes cast by people who did not vote in the 2010 election. The current lead is 19.7 percentage points.
- **Overall early vote** – Among all voters, the Democrats currently maintain a 10.7 point lead. Republicans lead in only two battleground states – Florida and Colorado – but those leads should vanish once in-person early voting gets rolling in both states. Additionally, Democrats are doing a better job in beating out Republicans as compared to the statistics from 2008, especially when it comes to absentee/mail ballot requests.
- **Crowd size** – Obama still looks to be drawing the larger crowds at rallies although Romney is doing better than he was previously. For example, after the last debate, both candidates appeared in Denver with Obama drawing 16,000 supporters compared to 12,000 for Romney.
- **Social media and Internet activity** – Obama is still way ahead in terms of official website activity. In social media, Obama is also well out in front although Romney's team is trying hard to catch up. An ongoing paid ad campaign by Romney on Facebook is beefing up the number of subscribers to his page.

Managing Election Day and long lines

While early voting can account for more than 50 percent of voting in states like Florida, in most areas, Election Day still garners the bulk of total votes.

The Obama campaign must deal with strong official and volunteer efforts to suppress voting in areas that favor the president. Unfortunately, many people procrastinate and wait until after work on Election Day to vote. Lines can get very long in some areas.

According to surveys, about 20 percent of registered people who do not vote claim long lines as their excuse.

The Obama team can try to convince more of these people to vote early or to, at least, vote in the morning or during the lunch break on Election Day. Otherwise, they need to organize at the polling places to make sure that things run smoothly.

Rapid response teams can go to precincts with very long lines and provide relief, entertainment and snacks along with running interference if any "truthers" show up.



IFRAME: http://www.youtube.com/embed/Rral_jecey8

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Come to Florida - OFA Florida (2012-10-25 19:39)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/LTBqpxXKUq8?fs=1>

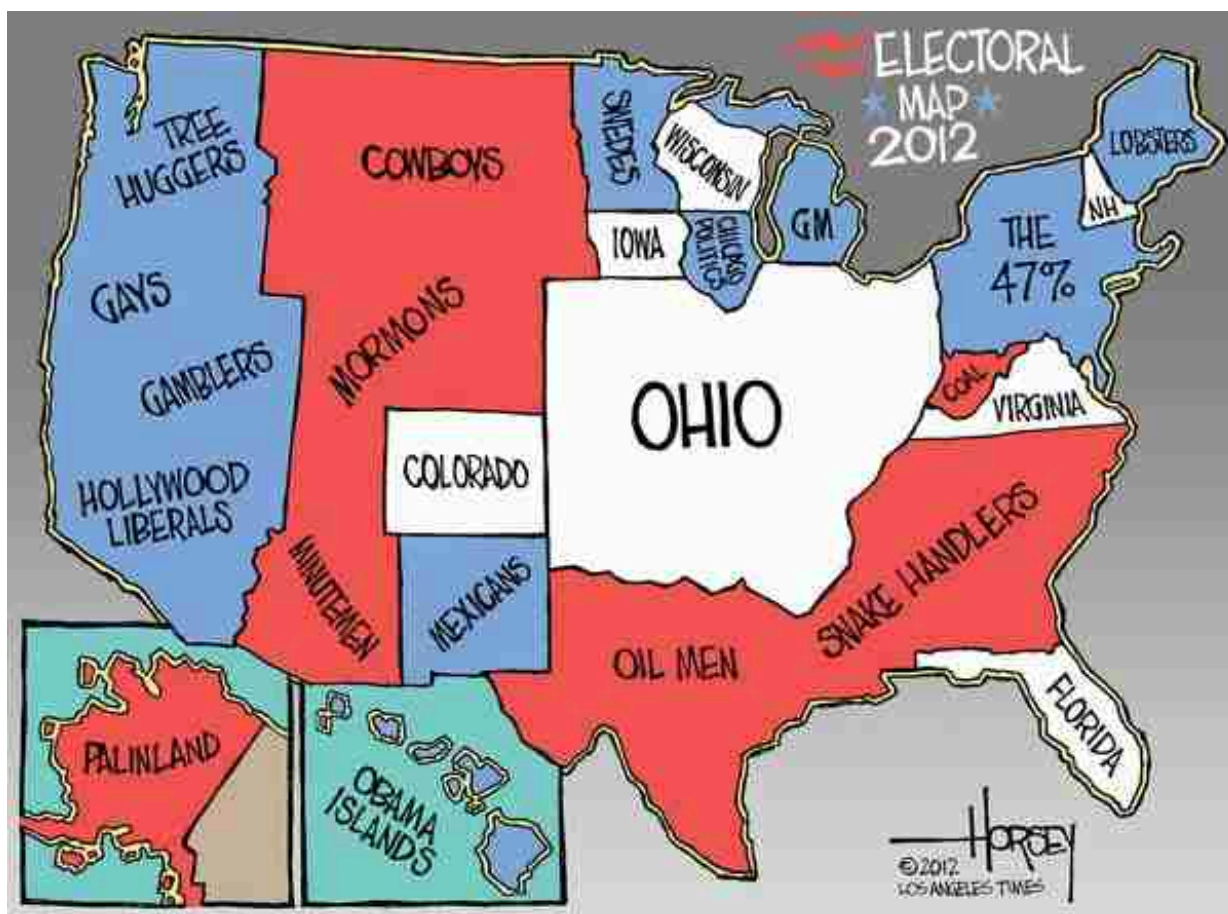
While most attention right now is focused on Ohio, the state of Florida is still a very big prize up for grabs. In an earlier post, it was shown that Romney cannot win the electoral vote without winning Florida.

That was true taking into consideration the battleground state map at the time. Now, most analysts have narrowed down the number of battleground states even further. For example, NBC places North Carolina in Romney's corner while Nevada is now an Obama state.

If Romney loses Florida, he could win all the other current battleground states including Ohio and still lose. In order to win, he would have to win all those states and also steal either Pennsylvania or two other "lean Obama" states, so long as there are no surprises in the "solid" states.

Another reason to look at Florida very seriously is that Romney may have a weakness here on the issue of women's reproductive rights.

Ohio is also a good issue state for the Obama team due to Romney's stance on letting the auto industry go bankrupt. Union workers in the state are also suspicious of Romney due to his ties with job outsourcing to China.



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✕

Anonymous (2012-10-25 23:08:03)

Get your Obama t-shirts, I mean Anti-Obama t-shirts! LOL!

Change...Obama - Hundred Dollar Bills...Romney

Obama...Half Honkey, Half Donkey

Vote Romney 2012...He's White!

Colin Powell's endorsement and the reaction (2012-10-26 08:38)

Gen. Colin Powell's endorsement of President Barack Obama sparked a top surrogate of Republican nominee Mitt Romney. Former senator John Sununu claimed that Powell endorsed Obama simply the president if black. Powell endorsed Obama in the 2008 race and many analysts believe his support helped Obama then and will help him again in this election. For many years, Powell was either the most popular or one of the most popular prominent Republicans.

Neo-conservatives used goodwill harbored for Powell to sell the Iraq War to the public. Powell, himself, claims that the administration duped him into arguing for a war based on made-up evidence.

Of course, Powell is not the only prominent Republican to endorse Obama. Former Florida governor Charlie Crist is

another GOP leader who endorsed the president. Also, from Florida, there was the recent case of the "bear-hugging" Republican pizza parlor owner who threw his support behind Obama.

Suggesting that Powell endorsed Obama simply because both are black is part of a pattern used by the Tea Party and other right-wing opponents of the president. They consistently attempt to racialize the contest in order to stir up the worst sentiments among their supporters.

In endorsing Obama, Powell said: "When he took over, the country was in very, very difficult straits, we were in one of the worst recessions we had seen in recent times, close to a depression ... we were in real trouble.

"I think generally we've come out of the dive and starting to gain altitude," he said. "I see that we are starting to rise up," he said. On foreign policy, Powell noted: "I'm not quite sure which Governor Romney we'd be getting with respect to foreign policy," and he also called Romney's foreign policy plan "a moving target."

On the GOP nominee's budget proposal, he said, "It's essentially, let's cut taxes and compensate for that with other things, but that compensation does not cover all the cuts intended or the expenses associated with defense."



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/62QCeK8YYEE>

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-10-26 11:40:55)

Sorry O already voted for R. Colin Powell, who cares. Bye Bye to the whole lot of ya.

Hurricane Sandy and voter turnout (2012-10-30 10:25)

The devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy and the ongoing "Superstorm" Sandy could have an impact on voter turnout since it is shutting down early voting days in some battleground states.

In some of these states, they have already announced plans to compensate for Sandy through measures like extending early voting hours and days. Virginia and Pennsylvania, so far, appear to be the main swing states that could suffer from Sandy's impact. Pennsylvania, though, has not in-person early voting.

The storm is also hammering states like Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin although the impact should be far less than what occurred on the East Coast.

President Barack Obama canceled campaign events at least until Wednesday in order to oversee the federal emergency response to the hurricane.

Some political observers are speculating over whether Hurricane Sandy may benefit either candidate in the presidential race. In terms of turnout, it possibly could favor Mitt Romney although this is far from clear. It really depends on which areas are hardest hit by the storm.

Some commentators believe the president could benefit since Americans tend to rally around their leader during periods of national distress. The disaster is also highlighting Romney's previous statements that emergency response should be the responsibility of the states with privatized agencies.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Jeff Hellyer (2012-11-01 10:37:07)

He has done GRETA THINGS to help with Sandy!

And now we NEED to make sure he's RE-ELECTED. To that end, here is my donation:

My music video for President Obama and his re-election campaign. Please feel free to FORWARD!

"I C A New A M E R I C A !"

– Obama music video:

YouTube:

http://youtu.be/k129b_rfNYA

Vimeo:

<http://vimeo.com/52333195>

Thanks and best wishes,

Jeff

Jeff Hellyer (2012-11-01 15:25:47)

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Vimeo:

<http://vimeo.com/52333195>

Thanks and best wishes,

Jeff

Anonymous (2012-11-05 07:18:29)

Instead of campaigning, it is my opinion that our president should be handing out relief money to the victims of Sandy in New Jersey and New York. Sleeves rolled up and putting in time at ground zero. Campaigning should be second. He is the president and still needs to act as our leader.

6.10 November

Jim Messina's State of the Race: "The president will win re-election if ... (2012-11-01 16:44)



IFRAME: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/2SGIWT0bIBs>

Obama campaign manager Jim Messina discusses some of the metrics on the election especially those related to early voting.

The campaign is outdoing what it did in 2008 and is well ahead of the Romney campaign in most early voting and registration stats. The lead is particularly important in the battleground states. For example, in Colorado, Democrats have a bigger lead in new voter registration compared to November 2008. Same thing in Nevada.

In most battleground states, early in-person voting will end this weekend either on Nov. 2 or Nov. 3. Additionally, it's near the deadline to mail absentee/mail-in ballots. Otherwise, voters will have to deliver the ballots to the registrar's office or to another acceptable location.

In order to find an early voting location, the Obama campaign has set up a special tool at <http://barackobama.com/lookup>. Eventually, this tool should also work for Election Day voting locations. It provides the street address along with a driving map.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Anonymous (2012-11-13 12:38:34)

Check out Big Bang DBT's new song dedicated to our U.S. Troops and the re-election of President Obama. This song has generated a nation wide buzz

Here is a link to the new song - <http://limelinx.com/e1gbo>
www.bigbangxl.com

Nitin Kumar Palmist (2012-11-29 00:40:40)

<http://indianpalmreading.blogspot.in/2011/10/barack-obama-branch-of-fate-line.html>

Anonymous (2012-11-30 04:02:32)

I noticed you put two spaces after every period. You should only use one!

Natalie (2012-12-25 23:08:06)

You have a great blog. Thank you for sharing this to us.

Natalie | Barack Obama

7. 2013

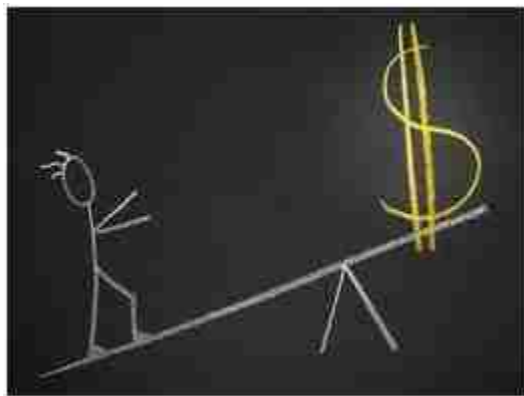
7.1 January

(2013-01-18 13:15)

7.2 July

How Obama is helping medical debt (2013-07-24 14:27)

How Obama is helping medical debt



One of the ways that Obama has tried to help giving Americans medical debt help is by helping them to avoid the debt to begin with. One of the programs that will soon come into law is one that is known as Obamacare. There are mixed emotions about this program

, but understanding the advantages and disadvantages will help you to decide for yourself.

The Advantages

One of the advantages is that the 30 million Americans who do not have health insurance will suddenly have it. This will help to prevent people from going deep into debt from a medical bill that they cannot afford to pay. Also, no guaranteed benefits will be cut in the process, meaning that you will only gain.

Another advantage of this is that it will also eliminate the fraud and the waste that is rampant in the medical industry. One such example would be paying \$10 per aspirin capsule. Considering a whole bottle can be bought for a few dollars, this is the epitome of medical fraud that Obama is looking to get rid of.

Preventatives and wellness exams will also be free. If you are tired of paying money for it, then it is time to look at the benefits. Also, this care will enhance the patient care. Many people have thought that it will get rid of Medicare and Medicaid, but Obamacare will actually help to enhance those programs.

The Disadvantages

One of the disadvantages is that despite this healthcare, there will still be millions of Americans who do not get to

have it. Another disadvantage is that it forces everyone to pay for healthcare that they might not even need. You will be forced because if you do not pay for it, then you will receive penalties and charges, which is almost certainly unfair. Not everyone wants to be told how they can spend their money. The increased people on coverage might also raise the prices of these insurance, which would certainly be a negative.

With more people on these programs, it will mean that the hospitals will be more crowded than they were before. This could mean even longer waits to see a doctor.

There are some advantages that come with this program, but how many, a person cannot be too sure of. It is said that Obamacare will help with eliminating medical debt and fraud with the increased governmental foothold on the medical industry. It will also enhance the patient care and give them a few free services. However, many are skeptical of this program, and there are good reasons to question it. They will be forced to pay for it. Only time will tell if it will be a good thing or a bad thing. In the meantime, we encourage you to

know your options

to lower your medical debt.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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7.3 September

The Obama Administration's Reforms On Educational Loans (2013-09-05 11:26)



Current Administration's Goals For College Graduates

The goal of the current administration is for the United States to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. To achieve it, the White House is taking a set of drastic steps to ensure that college is more affordable for everyone in the United States looking to pursue a education. Because the average debt after graduation is \$23,000, the federal government is taking steps to make loans more affordable, and thus the goal more attainable.

New Laws Allow Affordable Rates

One of the ways in which this is being done is through a new law that allows students to repay their loans at a more affordable pace. First, federal student loan payments are capped at only 10 % per month. This allows the loan to be repaid in a way which is affordable to the borrower. The 10 % cap will make it possible for you to meet your day to day expenses while still paying off your student loans in the event that you find out that your loans are consuming a large portion of your salary. This will also make it easier for most people to continue their education and go back to school.

Loans Repayable Faster

If you:

- Join the military
- Teach
- Work as a nurse
- Do any work of national importance

your loan will be completely forgiven in 10 years. For everyone else, the time to forgive the loan will be 20 years. This will ensure that you are not paying a student loan for the rest of your life.

Tax Credits For Affordability

The federal government is also providing tax credits to make going back to school much more affordable. Tax credits make sure that your student loans will be paid for and that there is no need to worry about your loans costing a lot of money in the future and make it less expensive now to go back to school. For those whom would like to save on taxes and have a better future, then going back to school is a fantastic option.

Online Students Covered Too

There is also more positive news to come from this: online schools are covered as well.

For those whom do not have the time to go to a traditional college campus, a student loan will cover the cost of going to an online school . Student loans make going back to school much more affordable for many students, especially those whom are struggling to pay bills back. For those whom are in that category, then finding the right loan will help you get to where you need to go. Student loans are not just for those whom go to traditional campuses for classes and school, but for those going back to school online as well.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



7.4 October

Online degrees (2013-10-19 08:27)

An online MPA degree can allow a person to move in and out of government and regular careers. Having this flexibility is great for someone who wants to try new things and try to make different areas of the world better. There will always be a need for a person like this because times are always changing.

The times are changing is a quote that many older people like to say to younger people. Just after 100 years, there are many things that are done differently. Cars are mass produced because of the increase of people in the world. This also increases carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the air that can cause global warming and other issues for people. There needs to be some sort of balance that will keep the world safe and healthy enough for people to live in it. There are all kinds of newer cars coming out that will eliminate the need for gas and other resources.

This is only newer cars though and all of the older cars that are still on the street will contribute to a smog-filled atmosphere. It has not gotten to the point yet that anything needs to be drastically changed though. Some states are worse than other states as well. Each state has its own laws regarding parts that are legal to use on a car. Eventually, all cars will become resource-free and eliminate the need for gas usage at all. This is still very far away though.

People who want to get a degree like this one will help make life better for people now, not in the distant future. They help create a balance between all of the new methods of doing things and the older methods of doing things. Computers will play a big role for their employment. They allow them to research and find out different statistics from all over the world. When a person lands a government job, they will have the best of the technology to work with. This makes it very easy for them to make lives easier to live.

In conclusion, getting any type of degree is going to be hard work. It takes a dedicated and passionate person to complete a degree like this one. Once someone has the drive to help others, they can really make a difference and change history with the way things are handled on a day by day basis.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



Prohibition's unintended consequences (2013-10-21 19:19)

The ideas behind Prohibition seemed honorable enough, but the move had many consequences that no one ever expected. According to the supporters of Prohibition, banning alcohol would help reduce crime, drunkenness and other social ills. However, the following infographic from Mocavo shows what really happened.



Via: Mocavo Genealogy Search

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



7.5 December

President Obama Unveils Government and University Partnership to Help Veterans Succeed at Higher Education (2013-12-13 18:48)

President Obama Unveils Government and University Partnership to Help Veterans Succeed at Higher Education

President Obama recently unveiled two major initiatives to assist veterans at the annual Disabled American Veterans National Convention. The first initiative will launch a new research project to help better understand and combat both PTSD and mild traumatic brain injuries. The second initiative concerns implementing programs in which the government and colleges and universities will cooperate together to help veterans succeed at a degree or technical training program to help them compete for the high skilled jobs of the 21st century.

The education initiative, which is made up of "8 Keys to Success," will provide comprehensive professional development for college and university faculty and staff concerning the unique needs and challenges that veterans face. So far, approximately 250 community colleges and universities have agreed to participate, which is great news for the millions of veterans across the country who wish to continue or begin their education.

The "8 Keys to Success," as per the Official Blog of the US Department of Education, are:

- "Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans."
- "Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership."
- "Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming."
- "Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space (even if limited in size)."
- "Collaborate with local communities and organizations including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans."
- "Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention and degree completion."
- "Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans."
- "Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans."

President Obama's commitment to

education benefits for veterans

seems promising. His desire to forge a cooperative partnership between the federal government and universities with the ultimate goal of helping veterans succeed is encouraging and a much needed development. The "8 Keys to Success" not only provides ideas that can be immediately utilized in higher education, but also has a system for tracking and analyzing veterans progress, so that the methods implemented can be tested for success.

With so many veterans returning home to a painfully sluggish economic recovery, a new and committed approach to educating our veterans is paramount to our society's success. After the men and women of the armed forces serve our country proudly and bravely, they deserve a commitment from their country to help them succeed in higher education. This success will in turn allow our veterans to compete for the high skilled jobs of the 21st century, where they will continue to contribute to their country.

To learn more about the recently unveiled "

8 Keys to Success

" and

President Obama's commitment

to helping veterans pursue higher education.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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Site Review for Timothy Broas (2013-12-24 14:37)

The Timothy Broas website highlights a man who is not only an attorney, but a gentleman who has made a commitment to community service and philanthropy. He earned his law degree from the college of William and Mary School of Law and served his clerkship in the New Jersey Supreme Court and then served associate positions at several law firms before becoming a partner at Winston & Strawn, LLP, and his current law firm. His practice areas include Washington, DC, New York and New Jersey. His clients include financial institutions, pharmaceutical corporations and major utility companies.

Based in Washington, DC, Mr. Broas represents high profile clients and concentrates his litigation efforts in white collar criminal defense, corporate investigations, securities litigation and congressional litigation. The cases he has taken on include bank fraud, money laundering, bribery and securities fraud. Mr. Broas has been recognized by his peers as one of the top white collar criminal defense lawyers in the country.

In addition to his work in the legal field, Timothy Broas is supportive of several health initiatives and puts his leadership skills to work with several nonprofit organizations and participation in charitable events. His efforts include serving as a Board of Trustee member of Partners In Health (PIH), in his list of charitable causes. In his never ending effort to give back to his community and to others who need help, he is a board of trustee member and works with Partners, which is an international medical organization, and works to improve health care options worldwide. His work with Partners in the United States includes working with Navajo Nation and its members who struggle with cardiovascular disease and hypertension, chronic health conditions.

Partners also work to improve surgical training to medical communities worldwide and help those communities to establish surgical centers. This gives people around the world access to health care, especially surgical needs. PIH also teaches local surgeons improved surgical techniques and training for surgical nurses and technicians.

His work with PIH also includes the disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Sandy and the earthquake in Haiti. The effort of PIH brought much needed medical help to the injured and help to minimize the outbreak of health concerns associated with contaminated water supplies. PIH also contributed much needed follow up care, in addition to the initial care, to make sure medical needs were being met and continued to affect a positive outcome. Cholera, which is contracted from consuming contaminated water, continues to be a devastating problem in Haiti and with the leadership of Tim Broas, PIH is continuing its fundraising efforts to bring the necessities to the people of Haiti in the form of treatment and preventative care.

In 2013, Mr. Broas and his family participated in the PanMass Challenge, a two day, 190 mile bicycle ride in an effort to raise money to support the work at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Broas is a long time contributing fund raiser for Dana Farber. Fund raising efforts allows Dana Farber to continue the critical research necessary to fight cancer.

Timothy Broas is an appointed member of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College and the Mount Vernon Board of Visitors. He was also appointed by President Obama to the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

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8. 2014

8.1 January

Ambassador Yousef al Otaiba (2014-01-24 22:26)

Most people have a vague idea that an ambassador is a citizen who is appointed by the head of their government to act as their representative in a foreign country, and who resides in the country to which they are appointed in order to perform certain diplomatic functions on behalf of their home government. Our country currently has 133 ambassadors appointed to different countries with whom we have a relationship, as well as to the United Nations. In addition, there are 294 U.S. Embassies and foreign consulates. There are 169 foreign ambassadors in the United States, and less than one dozen countries with whom we have diplomatic relations, but who have no ambassador appointed to represent them. The countries with whom we have no diplomatic relations and who have no ambassador serving here are Bhutan, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Somalia, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. An ambassador is the highest ranking diplomatic official acting as a representative of their country to foreign governments.

Ambassadors are nominated by the President and approved or rejected by the Senate. There is no formal education required to become an ambassador, but many have degrees in business or foreign policy and a high level of government experience. One of the most surprising ambassadorships is that of former child star Shirley Temple Black, who was Ambassador to Ghana from 1974 - 1976, and Ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1989 - 1992, among her other political appointments.

The chief role of an ambassador is to promote the culture and values of their home country to citizens of the country to which they're appointed, to act as an information center for students and potential visitors to their country and to provide services for citizens of their home country on foreign soil. They also often host public and cultural events to share their arts, music and history with citizens of their host country. All foreign embassies are located in Washington, D.C., with consulates located in such major U.S. cities as Atlanta, Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The consulates act to provide help and services to their citizens located in these cities and the regions of the country where they're located, and to promote financial and business interests for their home country in these regions. United States embassies and consulates located in foreign countries serve the same functions in their host countries. Ambassadors can be withdrawn from a country at any time due to such things as armed conflict or accusations of human rights violations.

Ambassadors to the United Nations act in a slightly different capacity to traditional ambassadors. Ambassadors to this organization report to their respective state departments back home about U.N. matters and make recommendations to their governments regarding budgetary and security concerns. They can also pledge or withhold the support of their government regarding U.N. resolutions and fiscal matters.

Ambassador Yousef al Otaiba, the representative of the UAE in the U.S., is an example of a modern, educated diplomat who looks at the broader picture of International relations and seeks to forge alliances and find new solutions to the world's economic and security problems. It's essential for current and future world leaders to learn about other societies in order to understand them and bridge the gaps that separate different cultures. This can help foster an air of friendship and cooperation among the nations of the world and increase regional and global stability.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.

8.2 April

CSIS Provides Practical Solutions to World Problems (2014-04-27 07:17)

CSIS Provides Practical Solutions to World Problems

For more than 50 years, the Center for Strategic and International Studies has provided solutions to many of the world's greatest challenges, offering bipartisan solutions to decision makers in order to build a better world. Headquartered in Washington DC, the organization is a bipartisan, non-profit organization made up of scholars, government leaders and businesspeople, including United States Senator Sam Nunn, who has chaired the organization since 1999, John J. Hamre, who became the president and CEO in 2000, and Steve Wynn, real estate and casino mogul.

Founding of CSIS

In 1962, at the height of the Cold War, CSIS was founded by Admiral Arleigh Burke and David Abshire at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Admiral Burke commanded fleets in the South Pacific during World War II, served as Deputy Chief of Staff to commander Naval Forces – Far East during the Korean War, and served an unprecedented three terms as Chief Naval Officer before retiring in 1961. He then entered the business world, operating the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company and Texaco Oil before joining forces with David Abshire to create CSIS. Abshire served as Special Counselor to President Ronald Reagan and was the United States Ambassador to NATO from 1983 to 1987. He is also the author of several books.

Policy Solutions

In 1966, research conducted by CSIS triggered hearings in the House of Representatives regarding the watershed Sino-Soviet split, and in 1978, CSIS convened the first Capitol Hill public hearing on the genocide in Cambodia. The public hearing helped create major changes in the perception of the tragedy among Congress and the White House. Another CSIS panel in 1985 led to legislation to reform the staff of the Defense Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A report issued from the CSIS retirement commission led to the social security reform debate of 1998, while the CSIS Smart Power Commission made discoveries that led to recognition that America's standing in the world had diminished, providing recommendations to improve that decline in 2007.

CSIS Today

Today, CSIS is recognized as one of the most powerful public policy organizations regarding foreign policy and national security. The organization recently moved into state-of-the-art headquarters located in Washington DC. Although still focused on traditional defense and security matters, the group has added a focus on health and energy programs as well, which they feel are challenges facing the world today. As a bipartisan think tank, CSIS works to provide a platform for those in Congress to interact with community leaders on the issues the organization finds critical to global security. Organization members provide briefings to Congress from experts in government, education and field expertise, who offer members of the legislature realistic policy recommendations based on accurate and extensive data.

In addition to providing direct advice to Congressional leaders, CSIS offers speaking events, such as the Bipartisan Congressional Dialogue Series, plus a variety of policy conferences throughout the year that are designed to provide exceptional advice to Congress in order for them to better engage with the needs of the global community. The group prioritizes outreach to offer targeted, useful and timely support from experts in the global community.

Paul Kekai Manansala is a freelance author and blogger from Sacramento, California.



gads

BlogBook v0.5,
L^AT_EX 2_ε & GNU/Linux.
<http://www.blogbooker.com>

Edited: June 26, 2015

